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PLO: No self-rule deal before recognition

TUNIS — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not sign a self-rule deal with Israel before mutual recognition, a PLO official who is meeting Israeli negotiators in secret talks said. "There will not be a signing (of the interim self-rule deal) before the official recognition of the PLO which will sign it in the name of the Palestinian people," Hassan Asfour said. "Negotiations are continuing about the mutual recognition to solve the sensitive issues and reach an official normalisation," he added. Mr. Asfour is an assistant to Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO Executive Committee member who directed the secret negotiations in Norway with Israeli officials which forged agreement on the interim self-rule deal. It was the first time Mr. Asfour had acknowledged publicly that he was secretly meeting the Israelis. "The PLO will sign the agreement on the same footing as the signatory parties and at the same level and representation," he said.

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'Despite reservations, we endorse Gaza-Jericho plan'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has endorsed the Palestinian Israeli accord on Gaza and Jericho although he expressed reservations about it and criticised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failure to consult on it properly with Jordan.

"We are not against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and we support the Palestinian decision and I might go further and praise the Palestinian courage in taking this decision. I bless what the Palestinian interests and what the Palestinians agree to, and I believe this is not just for position in Jordan but also for the position of our Arab brethren, too. God bless them," the King said in an interview with Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twini.

The King, however, said he was not informed of the details of the agreement. He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat informed him before he left for the United States in June that contacts were underway between the PLO and the Israeli government

and the "issue of Gaza was on the table."

King Hussein said that during his latest visit to Jordan on Aug. 24, Mr. Arafat told him that secret meetings have taken place between the PLO and Israel and that the option of Gaza and Jericho was being discussed. Mr. Arafat also said that discussions on the final solutions were also taking place, the King said in the interview which was broadcast on Jordan Television Thursday.

But "we were not in the picture or aware of the details," the King said. His Majesty criticised the PLO for not consulting with Jordan, especially that Jordan provided an umbrella for the Palestinians to participate in the Arab-Israeli peace talks through the joint delegation.

"During a meeting with (Mr.) Arafat and members of the delegation and a number of our brothers, the discussion was about the necessity of coordination and that it was time to decide whether there was confidence or not, or if there was an interest or

not in coordinating in all dimensions and all issues," the King said.

King Hussein cited as reservations about the agreement the lack of clarity about the final status of the occupied territories and the unavailability of guarantees about the status of Jerusalem and that Israel will not continue to change the realities of the ground.

The King also voiced reservations about the situation in Gaza, saying that he told Mr. Arafat when he first mentioned the subject to him that he was worried about the possibility of taking control of Gaza at this point.

The King said he referred to the explosive situation in Gaza which could spill over to other parts of the occupied territories but Mr. Arafat said the PLO could control the Strip if it was helped.

He said the Palestinians were entitled to push for their rights. "It's for them to make the decision. We support what is happening. We are not and will not become the Palestinians' guar-

dians," the King said. Jordan's "disappointment (over not being fully informed) was justified" since it had lost territory defending the Palestinian cause, he said.

The King called for an Arab summit. "We tell every Arab brother that the fate of the (Arab) Nation is in danger, that this stage is dangerous and requires an Arab meeting," he said.

The King said that the Arabs must overcome their differences and prepare for the future. He warned there would be no peace if only one party controls Jerusalem. "The rights of the Christians and Muslims must be preserved."

King Hussein said the Israeli government had altered Jerusalem's geography. "Israel speaks of a Jerusalem to which it has already annexed a fifth of the West Bank while we speak of a Jerusalem that we knew before the catastrophe of 1967."

He said it was premature to envisage a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Jordan takes another look at Israeli-Palestinian agreement

Majali sees no direct threat from its implementation

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When news about an imminent agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel over the Gaza-Jericho first option first surfaced, Jordanian officials' initial reaction was one of disquiet and unhappiness not only over the PLO's failure to consult with Jordan on the plan but also over the implications of the accord on the Kingdom's national security.

Jordan continues to have serious reservations about the accord, but the nature and tone of these reservations seem

to have undergone some transformation.

Initial reports said that Jordan's reservations about the accord were predicted on security concerns. Mainly a fear of either a forced or voluntarily exodus into Jordan from the West Bank and Gaza.

Agence France Presse (AFP) Monday quoted an unnamed but "high-ranking official" as saying that Jordan fears the agreement "could lead to a transfer of Palestinian population" into Jordan.

But after His Majesty King Hussein publicly endorsed the accord in an interview with Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twini, Prime Minister Abdul

Pope welcomes Akihito to his palace

CASTEL GANDOLFO (AFP) — Pope John Paul II welcomed Japan's imperial to his country residence here Friday for their first meeting since Emperor Akihito became head of state. The Pope gave a quick bow in the Japanese fashion on meeting Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who were according the full ceremonial welcome due to heads of state and royalty despite this being a private visit. "Welcome, I am very pleased that you could come," the Pope said as he met the emperor, who was attended by 14 of the Vatican's Swiss guards and Father Giuseppe Pittau, a former number two in the Jesuits who acted as one of the translators having spent more than 30 years in Japan. Emperor Akihito, the nominal head of the Shinto religion and the son of a man once considered a god, spent 30 minutes meeting with the Pope in the official apartments of his summer palace outside Rome. The Pope congratulated the emperor on his research in marine biology — "it is a field without limits," replied Emperor Akihito — and the monarch thanked the pontiff for the Roman Catholic Church's contribution to Japanese society, a Vatican spokesman said. "I would like to think you with all my heart for your visit," the Pope told Empress Michiko, who was dressed in a pastel silk suit and hat with pearl jewelry.

Syria reports surprising progress in peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Moving beyond an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, which both sides say is all but signed, Middle East negotiators indicate a deal with Syria is within reach and Jordan and Lebanon are not far behind.

Syrian negotiator Mouaffak Al Alai said at the end of Thursday's sessions his team was now focusing on "the most important issues" in talks with the Israelis, and said he hoped to reach an outline agreement by the end of this round.

Chief Israeli negotiator in the Syrian talks, Itamar Rabinovich, said: "We made progress and we reached agreement on points that in earlier rounds seemed... unbridgeable and suddenly this week they became bridgeable."

The end of this 11th round of peace talks — Sept. 9 — will almost definitely see the signing in Washington of a peace agreement between representatives of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Also likely is an agreement on Israeli-PLO recognition that

would have been impossible when this peace process began 22 months ago.

"If there is an announcement by the PLO to recognise Israel and stop terror, these are the two conditions, then Israel will make the decision to recognise the PLO," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told Reuters.

"There have been no negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians this week," said the second-ranking Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erakat.

"The Palestinian delegation no longer has a role to play. We haven't received any instructions and all we do is go to the State Department and leave again," he said.

The Palestinian delegation had been taken aback by the accord that provides for mutual Israeli-PLO recognition and limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

They also found themselves upstaged by the PLO leadership, which would usurp all their authority once recognised. (Continued on page 3)

Damascus praises Israeli seriousness

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Friday praised Israeli seriousness in the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks and held out the prospect of a "firm, solid, real, honourable, just and comprehensive" peace agreement.

A commentary on Damascus Radio repeated Syria's well-known demands for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and said Syria would not allow Israel to blackmail it.

But veteran observers of the Syrian media said the praise and the flurry of adjectives to describe any future peace were significant.

The radio said the first week of talks in the 11th round of the peace talks in Washington had ended with nothing new "with the exception of the seriousness shown by the Israeli side in tack-

ling all the issues under discussion."

The afternoon commentary said Israel knew Syria's position on full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The success of the 11th round, it added, depended on Israeli compliance with Security Council resolutions on the Middle East and withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

When Israel "submits to the principle of land for peace and declares its readiness to return the occupied lands, it will find the road to peace clear and will find all the Arabs responsive to all the requirements of the peace process," it said.

Israel will also find the Arabs "serious in establishing a just, comprehensive, durable and firm

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan signals completion of disengagement process with Palestinians, but keeps door open for different kind of future relationship

By Lami K. Andani
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has signalled the start of a new era in Jordanian-Palestinian relations by strongly indicating that the historic Israeli-Palestinian accord has in effect completed the process of Jordan's disengagement from Palestinian affairs which formally started in 1974 when the Arab states recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a television interview with prominent Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twini, which was broadcast Thursday night, King Hussein appeared to draw a painful line between what the Palestinians, represented by the PLO, consider to be in their interests and Jordanian national interests in the light of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For while the King said that Jordan did not oppose the accord and in fact supported the Palestinian decision and to reach the agreement, he

emphasised that Jordan will not accept any agreement or provisions to be imposed on it — a clear reference to the articles involving Jordan in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

King Hussein's statement indicated that he was reluctantly accepting the accord — being what the Palestinians wanted — as part of a major decision to separate Jordan from negotiations on the future of the Palestinian people. Such decision will probably cause practical steps to realise this withdrawal including the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and other practical steps to protect Jordan from any potential negative repercussions of the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

The King's decision, which does not seem to have crystallised fully yet, judging by the interview, is motivated by four factors:

— Jordan's concern about its interests and rejection of any agreement and provisions in any accord imposed on it by any party.

— What is viewed by Jordan as conceding to the PLO will,

as manifested in its policies and failure to closely coordinate with Jordan, to assert its independence.

— The King's strong reservations about any deal based on the concept of an interim phase that leaves the future of the Israeli-occupied territories and the Palestinian people's rights ambiguous.

The King's resentment of PLO acceptance to postpone the discussion over the two sensitive issues of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements, which he fears could compromise the status of the Holy City and jeopardise the final outcome of the negotiations.

NEWS ANALYSIS

King Hussein, however, kept the door open for considering a different and closer Jordanian-Palestinian relationship — including confederation — once Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories are free to express their will.

But till that day, and in the immediate future, the Monarch implied that Jordan

will distance itself from Palestinian affairs focusing on protecting its own interests while respecting the will of the representatives of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

For while the King said that Jordan did not object to the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and Jordan and the Arab World support any Palestinian decision, he firmly stressed that the Kingdom would not accept any form of Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that was imposed by another party.

The King was alluding to provisions to the Israeli-Palestinian accord which involve links and coordination between the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Jordanians during the interim period, in different fields such as communications, and energy, which were reached without Jordanian consent.

Although he said that he did not know enough about the details to make a final verdict on the accord, he was clearly expressing concern about the Palestinians allowing Israel to determine the form of the

(Continued on page 5)

King to pay state visit to China

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will pay a state visit to the Peoples Republic of China from Sept. 13 to 16, a spokesman for the Royal Court said. The spokesman said King Hussein will hold talks with the Chinese president on bilateral relations and also exchange views with him on regional and international developments.

Abu Nowar denies Israel Radio report

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar Friday dismissed as baseless a report by Radio Israel that he had an interview with a special correspondent of an Israeli newspaper. Dr. Abu Nowar said the report was fabricated and stressed that he did not have any interviews with any Israeli correspondent, or with Khaled Al-Horani newspaper in Jerusalem, either in Amman or elsewhere. Dr. Abu Nowar said Radio Israel should stop fabricating news and sources after it has lost its credibility twice over 24 hours.

Arafat battles for Fateh support for self-rule deal

Combined agency despatches

TUNIS — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, on the brink of a deal with Israel which could be the linchpin of a general Middle East peace settlement, battled Friday for agreement in his own guerrilla movement, Fateh.

Mr. Arafat appeared set to win the approval of Fateh leaders despite widespread anger at his secret bargaining behind their backs.

The Central Committee of Fateh, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) backbone, was meeting for a second day behind closed doors and officials said a small minority of its 18 members remained opposed to the plan that would give Palestinians self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Many members castigated Mr. Arafat for jumping over their heads to reach agreement with the Israelis, but a few argued against the actual contents of the accord, PLO officials said. That indicated the PLO leader eventually would get the backing he needs to continue with the peace process.

Israeli officials have said the accord could be signed within days. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday the deal could be a catalyst for other talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon (see separate story).

PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the heaviest criticism of Mr. Arafat in the Fateh meetings came from central committee member Abbas Zaki.

He objected to the deal for ignoring key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Zaki also blasted Mr. Arafat for conducting the talks in secret and complained that Palestinian leaders were embarrassed to find out about the deal through the press, without being informed by Mr. Arafat beforehand.

"Such an issue cannot be cooked up quickly, and we should not approve it easily," Mr. Zaki told the Associated Press. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon cursed Mr. Arafat, calling him "pimp" and "traitor," while hardliner Nayef Hawatmeh predicted the deal would fail because

it could not win support from a majority of Palestinians.

PLO officials acknowledged that the movement has difficulty meeting Israel's demand for formal retraction of a 25-year-old declaration of principles which denies the Jewish state's right to exist.

But the sudden denouncement of the long Arab-Israeli conflict seemed still on track.

Yasser Abed-Rabbo, an Arafat ally on the PLO Executive Committee, predicted that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the other Arab participants in U.S.-sponsored peace talks, would all sign accords with Israel at the same time as the Palestinians.

"I think they will sign together at the same time, because there is important progress on the Syrian track, the accord with Jordan is ready, and that leaves Lebanon, which also could be ready," he told Reuters in Tunis.

Mr. Arafat's priorities were clear. He started his sales job for the accord with leaders of Fateh, which has always been the mainstream of the PLO and his personal power base.

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Peres: PLO accord advances Syria track

Combined agency despatches

PARIS — Israel's agreement with the Palestinians on self-rule could advance negotiations with the Syrians, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said here on Friday.

"With the Syrians, there has to be a change in realities, not just atmosphere. I think that the accord with the Palestinians could push forward negotiations a lot," Mr. Peres said after a working breakfast with his French counterpart Alain Juppe.

Mr. Peres arrived in France from Brussels on a diplomatic swing in the wake of the breakthrough in the Middle East peace negotiations. Under the agreement, which Mr. Peres negotiated secretly in Norway, autonomy will start in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

In Tunis, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Friday he expected the PLO, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to sign peace accords with Israel together.

"I think they will sign together at the same time, because there is important progress on the Syrian track, the accord with Jordan is ready, and that leaves Lebanon, which also could be ready," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Rabbo told Reuters.

Mr. Peres also said the Palestinian self-rule accord and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO were separate issues that did not require simultaneous signing.

Mr. Peres said Israel opposed a visit to occupied areas by PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat as long as the mutual recognition issue was unresolved.

"There are two separate issues," Mr. Peres told the Paris-based Europe-1 radio station. The self-rule accord could take effect before the mutual recognition issue was solved, said the Israeli minister.

But asked if Mr. Arafat and his associates could then establish themselves in Jericho, Mr. Peres said: "If there is (mutual) recognition, yes. Otherwise, no."

Asked if last month's initialing of the self-rule accords between Israel and PLO officials in Oslo did not in itself represent Israeli recognition of the PLO, Mr. Peres replied:

"Yes and no. There is a difference between formal recognition and the current situation."

Mr. Juppe also met here Friday with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, who said afterwards that he was "at the disposition of the Israelis and the Palestinians if they need an international or a United Nations presence, either Gaza or Jericho."

In his talks with Mr. Peres, Mr. Juppe paid tribute to the Israeli foreign minister's "clear thinking and courage," saying "it is in all our interests that what is going on in the Middle East should succeed."

"France supports the action of the Israeli government, approves the courage of the accord and hopes that negotiations underway towards mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will come to fruition as soon as possible."

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Israeli army fires on Gazan protest

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies)

— Israeli troops shot and wounded four Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday, three of them at a Muslim fundamentalist rally against a Palestine Liberation Organisation self-rule deal with the Jewish state, Palestinians said.

Soldiers in the Jabalya refugee camp opened fire on an Islamic Jihad procession of more than 1,000 demonstrators chanting "Death to Israel, death to America," the sources said.

Three of the marchers were moderately wounded, they added.

Palestinians said that in a separate incident soldiers shot and seriously wounded Gaza City resident Mahmoud Ayyad.

Mr. Ayyad was taken to hospital in Israel after the shooting east of the city, they added. No other details were available.

(Continued on page 5)

The Embassy of the state of Qatar to Jordan

Announces that the celebration, which is going to be held at the Forte Grand Hotel on Sat. 4 Sept 1993, on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Qatari National Day, will be at 6.00 o'clock, instead of 7.00, to 9.00
The embassy thanks all those who will be attending.

U.S. trying to raise financing for Palestinian self-rule

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration is trying to help line up the hundreds of millions of dollars it will take to start up Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Most of it is to come from the Mideast. Europe and Japan.

An international aid package, as well as the prospect of millions more down the road, was an essential sweetener for convincing the financially strapped Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept the accord with Israel on self-government, said experts and officials familiar with the Mideast negotiations.

The money is also viewed as vital to the success of the five-year interim self-government plan, worked out in secret Israel-PLO talks, which it is hoped will serve as a catalyst for Mideast peace.

"If the Palestinians see no economic benefit from this agreement, if their lives continue to be miserable and desperate, then how can this succeed?" asked one U.S. official close to the 22-month Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Before the Israel-PLO agreement was reached Aug. 20, the United States had promised the Palestinians a package on the order of \$180 million a year for an indefinite period to run an interim self-government once it was established, said a source familiar with the U.S. proposal, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

But with an agreement actually reached — albeit without direct U.S. involvement — work is being stepped up to come up with exact figures and get donations from other countries.

"The funds, I think, will come primarily from others," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher in an interview Thursday with National Public Radio. "The United States, as usual, will do its part, and I think we will try to help facilitate the contributions."

The United States is willing to contribute up to \$50 million in discretionary funds — money it would not need to get from Congress, said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier this year, the United States sought promises of help from Japan, the European Community and the Gulf states. All had promised to do so in principle, and U.S. officials are now reestablishing contact to lock in specifics.

The Scandinavian countries have pledged some \$150 million for the so-called early empowerment fund, and the Europeans and Japanese are said to be thinking of raising about \$100 million

together. The Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — which shut off assistance to the Palestinians to punish them for the PLO's support of Iraq in the Gulf war — have promised some \$100 million for a Palestinian government, said James Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute.

And Israel has promised to transfer tax money it collects annually from the Palestinians to the self-government authority once it's established. That figure is estimated at \$380 million annually, said Leonard Housman, director of Harvard University's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East.

In addition to money for the Palestinian government, the PLO is asking for emergency money to cover deficits accrued by hospitals, universities and other institutions in the occupied territories since the Gulf money was cut off in war, Mr. Housman said.

That figure, said Mr. Zogby, is estimated at \$120 million. Mr. Housman, who met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis last Friday, said that in addition to the aid for the Palestinian self-government, studies show that an infusion of some \$500 million to \$700 million annually would be needed to get the Palestinian economy moving once it emerges from Israel's control.

The PLO has been talking to the World Bank, as well as the European Community, about money for such future development and infrastructure projects. Mr. Zogby said discussions were also underway to establish a private West Bank development bank with money from wealthy Palestinian expatriates.

"Japan ready with aid" Japan is ready to provide large-scale aid to Palestinians in the event of a formal agreement between Palestinians and Israel, the conservative daily Sankei said Friday.

The government plans to set out its views on this issue during talks next Thursday and Friday with senior foreign ministry officials of the two countries in Tokyo, said the paper in its un-sourced report.

On Thursday a Japanese Foreign Ministry official indicated that Tokyo was studying possible financial aid to an autonomous Palestinian authority which could emerge from the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

An Israeli diplomat confirmed Friday in Tokyo that Israel had informally raised the issue with Japanese authorities on Thursday.

Japan has already earmarked \$12 million in its 1993 budget (April 93-March 94) for United Nations funds for Palestinian refugees from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and has committed aid worth \$3 million to a Japanese-Palestinian development fund through the U.N.'s development programme.

EC: Funds scarce

While the European Community (EC) has pledged support for plans to extend autonomy to Palestinians in the Middle East, the money to back the promises could be hard to find, EC officials warned Friday.

One official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said the European Commission, through which much European aid is channelled, had little leeway to increase spending in the Middle East.

"Already there is nothing left for Bosnia," another said, referring to the relief effort to save victims of the civil war in the former Yugoslav republic from starvation in the coming winter.

"We can always find the money for emergency aid of five or six million dollars. It will be impossible for us to go much further unless EC governments give us the money," the EC official said.

But another official said EC capitals had given a cool reception to Washington's so-called Marshall plan for massive international assistance to underpin the Palestinian self-government project.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said during a visit to EC headquarters on Thursday that the United States and the European Community had promised to make the project "a political and economic success."

The Israeli-Palestinian accord was warmly welcomed by the EC this week. European Commission President Jacques Delors said during Mr. Peres' visit: "When the actors (in the Middle East) have need of us, they will find us."

But the commission has given little indication that it is ready to go beyond cooperation and aid plans already under way or about to be finalised, or such projects as training the Palestinians for self-government.

Next Wednesday the EC's executive is due to release details of an updated cooperation accord with Israel, in response to Israeli demands for fairer access to the community market than contained in an existing 1975 accord.



Iraqi children in Amara, southern Iraq, in the "no-flight" zone (AFP photo).

Iran-backed rebels step up raids in southern Iraq

HAYDARIYA (R) — Shiite dissidents, trained and armed by Iran, have recently escalated attacks on targets in southern Iraq, the inhabitants of this reed village told foreign reporters on Thursday.

"Infiltration from the Iranian side goes on. Three days ago they (rebels) attacked Galat Saleh with rocket propelled grenades," Sheikh Mohammad Qasim Abdullah said.

"The army and tribesmen chased them off," he added. Galat Saleh is about 60 kilometres from the Iranian border close to the Baghdad-Basra highway and 430 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Haydariya, where Sheikh Abdullah had set up his mudhif (guest house), is close to the extensive Huweiza marshes straddling the border into Iran.

The Iranian-backed Shiite opposition said last month thousands of people from the southern marshes fled to Iran in the face of an Iraqi offensive and attempts to drain the area.

But the marsh Arabs of this village said the water this year was higher than last year.

Sheikh Abdullah gathered his men who formed a huge circle, dancing the hussa (war dance) once reporters, escorted by Iraqi officials got off their cars.

Barefoot children and women hoisted sticks and clubs in the air and waved pictures of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Sheikh Abdullah said he had

3,000 men under arms, all living in simple reed houses in Haydariya.

But he complained that the Huweiza marshes were now too dangerous for his people to take their water buffaloes to.

"It takes the rebels two hours to reach the land. They use motor boats which can carry as many as 12 armed men," he said.

Part of Huweiza was drained by Iraq to fend off repeated Iranian offensives during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war.

Across the dry land were empty tank bunkers, ditches, watch towers and long earth embankments — leftovers from the eight-year war.

"They even attack the highway, plundering travellers and taking people hostage," he said.

Jabbar Sgheri Swadi said he had six buffaloes, but can no longer take them to the swampy land for fear of the "infiltrators."

"Sometimes we send women to guide the animals into the marshes, they do not attack women," he said. "We go to the 'har' (marshes) but stay on the fringes and have to be back by noon."

Mohammad Hussein, with about 20 buffaloes, the largest herd in the village, said numbers of the animals, the mainstay of the marsh Arabs, were decreasing at an alarming rate.

"They need the marsh water for food and to escape the scorching heat but we cannot have them there as long as they want," Hussein said.

Drogoul pleads guilty in BNL Iraq loan case

ATLANTA (AP) — A banker who says he was made a scapegoat for failed U.S. policy in the Middle East has pleaded guilty to making unauthorised loans.

Christopher Drogoul's plea came just six days before he was to go on federal trial on 70-count bank-fraud indictment charging him with making \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq. Some of the money helped fund Iraq's military before the Gulf war.

Mr. Drogoul's attorneys had subpoenaed former President George Bush to testify.

Last fall, Mr. Drogoul pleaded guilty to some of the charges but withdrew the plea during a politically charged sentencing hearing.

Attorney General Janet Reno approved the new deal, Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said. It includes guilty pleas to one count of wire fraud and two counts of making false statements to bank regulators.

"With these three counts, the government achieved the likely prison term which would have been achieved no matter how many counts you took to trial," Mr. Stern said.

Mr. Drogoul, who will be sentenced Nov. 29, could receive up to 60 years in prison. His attorney, Robert Simels, said he would ask U.S. District Judge G. Ernest Tjell to limit Mr. Drogoul's sentence to the 17 months he has already served.

Mr. Simels said Mr. Drogoul agreed to the plea "as a result of the urging of his family to terminate the nightmare of this Alice-in-wonderland setting" and get him out of prison sooner.

Mr. Drogoul, the former Atlanta branch manager for Italy's state-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, was accused of funneling \$5.5 billion to Iraq through loans and credit agreements, and hiding the deals from BNL officials and U.S. regulators.

Before withdrawing his plea last year, Mr. Drogoul said his actions were approved by BNL headquarters in Rome and that the U.S. government was aware of the deals.

Arguing that the loans to Iraq were consistent with U.S. policy towards Iraq in the 1980s, Mr. Drogoul's attorney had called the case "the mother of all cover-ups."

For his sentencing hearing last year, his lawyers claimed Drogoul was being made a scapegoat for foreign-policy failures of then President Bush. Congressional critics, led by House Banking Committee chairman Henry Gonzalez, made similar charges last year as Mr. Bush was seeking re-election.

Mr. Drogoul was indicted in 1991, about 1½ years after the BNL office in Atlanta was raided by the FBI.

He was accused, among other things, of using an Agriculture Department programme designed to promote farm exports, to get the money to Iraq. At the time, most banks were refusing to loan money to Iraq because of its poor credit record.

Five BNL-Atlanta co-workers had pleaded guilty and were prepared to testify against Mr. Drogoul, prosecutors said. Last month, U.S. District Judge Marvin Shoob sentenced them to probation, calling them bit players in the scheme.

Mr. Drogoul has originally indicated in 1991 on 347 counts, but prosecutors issued a revised 70-count indictment in July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel bars Arab-American from conference

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has refused entry to an Arab-American scheduled to speak at a conference on non-violent solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, conference organisers said Thursday. Mubarak Awad, 49, director of the Washington, D.C.-based Non-Violence International, was to be the keynote speaker at a conference, a statement said. Palestinians and Israelis for Non-Violence, the group that organised the conference, petitioned the Israeli high court to reverse the government's decision and allow Dr. Awad into the country. The court has agreed to a hearing, but has scheduled it for Sept. 6, the day before the conference. Linda Brayer, the attorney representing Palestinians and Israelis for Non-Violence, said the group would present its case in the hope that Dr. Awad will attend the last part of the conference. The Jerusalem-born Awad became a U.S. citizen during a 13-year stay in the United States but returned in 1983 to found the Centre for the Study of Non-Violence. The Israeli government deported him in June 1988, saying he had encouraged violence in the occupied territories, did not have a legal residence permit and was in Israel under an expired visa in his American passport. He now lives in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Dr. Awad's attorneys maintained he did not need a visa and should have been allowed permanent residence since he was born in Jerusalem before Israel seized the city's Arab section in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel disputes U.N. protest over shooting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel took issue on Thursday with a recent U.N. protest over an incident in the Gaza Strip in which several U.N. medical staff were wounded by rubber bullets. In a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Israeli U.N. envoy Gad Yacobi said the Aug. 26 protest, accompanied by a request for an investigation, was "one-sided and does not reflect the full account of the events that took place." The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) had reported that an Israeli border policeman sitting in the back of a Jeep outside an UNRWA clinic in Khan Younis on Aug. 21 suddenly fired rubber bullets at a clearly marked U.N. ambulance surrounded by five medical personnel wearing white uniforms. Mr. Yacobi said the incident occurred after an Israeli army patrol was attacked by stone-throwers and a soldier severely injured after being hit on the head by a slab of concrete. After evacuating the injured man, who remained in critical condition, the Israeli patrol chased and fired rubber bullets at the stone-throwers, some of whom found shelter in the nearby clinic. "Four UNRWA personnel who were at the site at that time were reported to suffer injuries," Mr. Yacobi said. He added: "The Israeli military authorities assert that this is not the first time that stone-throwers sought shelter inside UNRWA facilities or that local UNRWA personnel and their vehicles were present at a time of such event."

Yemen puts efforts to heal Kuwait ties on hold

SANAA (R) — Yemen, its relations with Gulf Arab states soured by its support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, said on Thursday it had put efforts to mend fences with Kuwait on hold. But Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Basandawa said that his country was holding serious negotiations with Saudi Arabia on solving a border dispute and both sides wanted an agreement. Mr. Basandawa said efforts at reconciliation with Kuwait had been met by insults from some Kuwaitis, and Yemen was now putting these efforts on hold. "We say the ball is now in the Kuwaitis' court... it's up to them," he told a news conference. Mr. Basandawa has been trying to mend fences with former Gulf Arab allies angered by Yemen's sympathy for Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Yemen, he said, was ready for any positive move from Kuwait, but it was Yemen's policy towards "opposition" countries. Mr. Basandawa said Yemen and Saudi Arabia were trying to negotiate an amicable and to their dispute over a potentially oil-rich border area between the two countries. "Serious negotiations are going on over the border problem and there is a joint wish to solve it," he said. The U.S. oil company Hunt, which has an oil production agreement with Yemen, said Wednesday it had received a letter from a Saudi official which "expressed concerns" about an accord with Yemen granting the company drilling rights near the border with Saudi Arabia.

British solicitor held in Cyprus released

NICOSIA (R) — A British solicitor, wanted in the United States for alleged conspiracy to sell stolen British treasury bills was arrested on arrival in Cyprus on Thursday but released on bail. The Larnaca district court will hear an application for the extradition of Jeffrey Anthony Kershaw, 45, on Monday. Mr. Kershaw, from London, is wanted by U.S. authorities over an alleged conspiracy to sell treasury bills worth \$80 million which originated from the theft of treasury bills worth £280 million (\$420 million) from the British treasury, police said. Cyprus state counsel Eleni Loizidou told the court the United States would ask for the Briton's extradition. The court rejected her request for Mr. Kershaw's remand in custody for eight days until the relevant documents arrived from America. Defence counsel Nicos Clerides objected to the request, saying the United States had asked but failed to secure his client's extradition from Britain. Mr. Kershaw was released on bail of 3,000 Cyprus pounds (\$6,000) and ordered to report to the police three times a day.

U.S. opposes Iraq's entry to conference

GENEVA (AP) — The United States has opposed the entry of Iraq to the international disarmament conference in a decision that has been sharply criticised. U.N. diplomatic officials said Friday. One Latin American diplomat condemned the U.S. veto as "not only stupid but short-sighted." And even some of America's traditional allies have reacted angrily to the decision. It is feared that the U.S. stance could jeopardise a conference decision taken three weeks ago to start multilateral talks on a total ban on nuclear tests. It is one of the measures being taken by the disarmament conference to reinforce efforts to secure a world-wide non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. But it is widely felt that for such across more countries than just the 40 conference members. So after years of deliberation, the conference was on the point of widening its membership to include 23 other countries, among them Iraq, South Africa, Israel, North Korea, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Search for Aided evolves into high-tech hunt

By Reid G. Miller
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — The U.S. Navy P-3 Orion drones high over Mogadishu, tracing a precise pattern through the sky in a high-tech search for one man in a million.

The mission is specific: Find Mohammed Farrah Aided, the elusive Somali warlord accused by the United Nations of masterminding dozens of attacks on U.N. personnel. Four Americans and 24 Pakistanis are among the casualties.

From its position nearly 1.5 kilometres high, the Orion could count the hairs on General Aided's balding head — if only it can find him.

The navy has long used the four-engine Orion to hunt for submarines and more recently for drug smugglers along America's long coasts. Flying at 1,500 metres, it is packed with ultra-modern electronics — highly sensitive listening devices and cameras that when used in space

can capture the state motto off an automobile license plate. But to find Gen. Aided, the Orion and a clutch of high-tech helicopters with similar capabilities will also need luck.

The search involves scanning a city that the fugitive knows like the back of his hand and where many of its one million residents support him.

Jonathan Howe, the retired U.S. admiral who is in overall charge of the U.N. operation in Somalia, says Gen. Aided's day-by-day whereabouts are generally known.

Others are not so sure. "Aided appears to leave little trace of a signature and that is a challenge even with our technology," said Major David Stockwell, a spokesman for the military side of the U.N. operation.

In communications intelligence, a "signature" is a commonly used radio frequency, a recognisable voice or a familiar pattern of non-voice communications. Even if those communications are encoded, they can be

recognised and their sources pinpointed.

The search for Gen. Aided began after 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed June 5 in a series of ambushes in south Mogadishu, the part of the city controlled by Gen. Aided.

A week later, U.N. forces began their own nightly air and ground assaults on Gen. Aided's weapons caches. On June 17, Howe announced what was already clear, that Gen. Aided was a wanted man, and the United Nations put a \$25,000 bounty on his head.

The U.N. attacks included a fiery bombardment of Gen. Aided's home and principal command and control centre on July 12. The International Red Cross says 54 Somalis died and 174 were wounded.

In retaliation, a Somali mob set upon reporters, photographers and television news crews with knives, rocks and guns, killing an Associated Press photographer and three Reuters employees. The assaults drove Gen. Aided underground and brought

a backlash from some countries, U.S. lawmakers and charitable organisations. Critics said the United Nations, in seeking to punish the warlord, was forsaking the humanitarian role that brought it to Somalia in the first place.

Admiral Howe and the U.N. military argued otherwise. They could continue their effort to capture Gen. Aided, they said, without jeopardising their mission to rebuild a country shattered by three years of civil war, famine and anarchy. More than 350,000 people died in 1992 alone before U.S. troops were dispatched in December; the United Nations assumed control in May.

The search for Gen. Aided went on, but with a much lower profile. That changed Aug. 8, when a remotely detonated mine blew up a U.S. military vehicle and killed four Americans. The attack was blamed on Gen. Aided.

The search quickly shifted from low gear into high.

President Bill Clinton autho-

rising the deployment of 400 elite Rangers to Somalia to augment the army's rapid reaction force of 1,150 soldiers already on hand. The Americans assist a U.N. force of 25,000 from 28 countries including 4,000 U.S. logistics personnel, but remain under U.S. command.

The Rangers brought the tools, training and skills that the U.N. coalition lacked in previous efforts to capture Gen. Aided. Not least among these tools is the Orion.

Still, "technology can't do the job alone," Maj. Stockwell said, "and other forms of intelligence, like human intelligence, are often imperative."

It is human intelligence that the U.N. military effort appears most lacking. There has been no rush of Somalis claiming the \$25,000 reward.

"Some people support Aided, others are indifferent," Maj. Stockwell said. "Those who live in the large middle ground will probably not dispute his presence in their areas."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	TIME	PROGRAMME
18:30	18:30	Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:35	18:35	Envoyé Spécial
19:00	19:00	News in French
19:15	19:15	Fontaine Sur
19:30	19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	20:30	News in Arabic
21:30	21:30	News in English
22:30	22:30	Feature Film: "The Last Hit"

PRAYER TIMES

TIME	PRAYER
04:45	Fajr
06:05	Dhuhr (Summer)
12:35	Dhuhr
16:18	"Asr
19:42	Maghrib
20:22	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 52785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661257
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751
Assiout International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Flare weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with the appearance of clouds at low altitudes, and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16 / 28
Aqaba 23 / 35
Dhahran 17 / 33
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 34.5, Humidity read: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	Dr. Mahmoud Hani	698787
	Dr. Rabi Zaitoun	888685
	Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi	778939
	Dr. Nidal Al Dablan	827195
	First pharmacy	661912
	Perdons pharmacy	778336
	Al Asma pharmacy	637055
	Nairosh pharmacy	625672
	Al Salim pharmacy	636730
	Yasoun pharmacy	644046
	Shimlani pharmacy	637660
	Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Sharayy 248065
Al Qada Pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ahmad Al Tariq 908086
Khalifah pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	6
Civil Defence Department	6
Civil Defence Immediate	6
Rescue	6
Civil Defence Emergency	6
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 6
Fire Brigade	7
Blood Bank	7
Highway Police	8
Traffic Police	8
Public Security Department	8
Hotel Complaints	6
Price Complaints	6
Water and Sewerage	8
Complaints	8
Arman Municipality	7
Complaints	7
Telephone Information	7

Experts debate reasons for Arab-European instability

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While religious extremism, lack of democracy and clandestine immigration are considered by the West as the major reasons hindering progress and provoking instability between the Arab and European countries, the Arabs argue that poor economic conditions in the Arab World and the lack of Western aid lead to such consequences.

In their working papers on fundamentalism, human rights and immigration submitted at the two-day meeting of the Arab-European Dialogue held at Forte Grand Hotel, Arab researchers and experts expressed their concern over Western misconceptions of Arabs and what they see as insufficient economic support by the West of the Arab World's development.

They say that religious extremism, or fundamentalism, as the West tends to put it, is a logical consequence of poverty and of the Western policy towards the Arab World.

In his paper on the causes of religious extremism (fundamentalism) in the Arab countries, Ahmad Sidqi Al-Dajani, president of the Higher Council of Education at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the principal causes of religious extremism are: the imperialist practices in the Arab countries that have a "racist, aggressive character," the double standard policy used by the U.S. which drives people "to adopting extremist thought and consequently using violence in confronting it," the International Monetary Fund's policies that impose certain conditions on these countries; and the lack of democracy in the Arab countries.

"These countries suffer in turn from institutional violence coupled with total failure to communicate with youths who fall prey to such kinds of violence and consequently religious violence grows in their midst," Mr. Dajani said.

Senator Laila Sharaf, who chaired the Thursday evening session, said in her concluding statement that the human rights issue, which is promoted and urged for by the West is being used as a weapon against the Arab countries who "will be the victims of human rights."

Questioning the reasons behind Europe's lack of attention attributed to the region (Arab countries) while there is a noticeable support given to Israel, President of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Inam Mufli said, "there isn't the support one expects to have on the economic level which is consequently one of the causes of rising religious extremism."

In his response to questions raised by the Arab side on Europe's policy towards Arab countries, Belgian Senator Roger Heeneuse said that "Europe is not perfect in implementing human rights: But Europe does not aim to become an imperialist."

The two-day meeting which ended Thursday was viewed by many participants as one of the positive steps taken to enhance dialogue and understanding between Europeans and Arabs. However, as some participants pointed out, there hasn't been actual participation from France or Germany or other European countries and majority of them represent Arab countries.

106,000 were unemployed in '92

AMMAN (Petra) — Surveys conducted by the National Aid Fund (NAF) on unemployment in Jordan have revealed that by the end of 1992 there were 106,000 job seekers in the Kingdom, accounting for 15 per cent of the total workforce.

NAF Director General Mohammad Simadi said that 75 per cent of these unemployed individuals were graduates of community colleges, technical institutes and universities.

Noting that the number of unemployed in 1991 was 127,000, Dr. Simadi said the NAF was striving to deal with the problem in several ways and contributing effectively to related national efforts.

One way to tackle the problem, said Dr. Simadi, is to encourage job seekers to obtain training in a trade that is currently in demand in the local labour market. He said others could be helped to start their small size income-generating projects or businesses.

Each year at least 46,000 people enter the Jordanian labour market which can create only 32,000 jobs annually, given that the economy continues to grow at the rate of four to five per cent, Dr. Simadi explained.

Unless appropriate measures are taken to deal with unemployment at the national level, he warned that the problem could soon assume very serious proportions and would be impossible to handle.

In the coming stage, the NAF, which helps needy families through monthly cash assistance or grants and loans for businesses, plans to adopt a decentralised system to reach all sectors and as many needy persons as possible, Dr. Simadi said.

He said that the NAF was cooperating with the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), provincial governors and official departments in carrying out its services.

The NAF plans to conduct studies on socio-economic conditions of clusters of villages in the rural regions prior to considering initiating income-generating projects for them as groups, Dr. Simadi explained.

Syria reports surprising progress

(Continued from page 1)

A Syrian source said a Middle East shuttle by Secretary of State Warren Christopher a month ago had clarified that Syria was ready to go beyond a simple ending of the state of war if Israel was ready for total withdrawal from the Golan.

"Our people, when talking about peace, can talk more freely now. We will see if the Israelis can talk more freely about withdrawal," the source said.

To prepare for this vasty changed Middle East landscape, notably the quick Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and limited Palestinian self-rule in the rest of the West Bank, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is working on an international aid package.

"The United States will participate in the matter, but the funds, I think, will primarily come from others," Mr. Christopher said on National Public Radio. "... the Gulf countries, countries around the world, I think, will be interested in participating. The United States as usual will do its part," (see page 2).

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Friday welcomed the "possible breakthrough" in negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Kozyrev, whose country co-chairs with the United States the peace talks, expressed support for the peace process in letters to Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres and Mr. Arafat, the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Kozyrev was considering a trip to the Middle East in the near future, and a senior Russian diplomat would go to the region to prepare the visit, according to the ministry quoted by Interfax news agency.

Russia had until now remained very discreet on the PLO-Israeli talks.

President Bill Clinton said Thursday "there's reason for hope" in the peace talks, and he praised both sides for being committed to reaching agreement.

"We've been up the hill and down the hill before with the Middle East, but these people are really working at it and I think their hearts as well as their minds are in it," the president said. "I think we should keep our fingers crossed."

Mr. Clinton said the parties have been "quite candid with the public and the press about some continuing difficulties. But they are really working hard and with great candor, I think, with one another. I'm hopeful."

Discussing the U.S. role, Mr. Clinton said, "We're just a sponsor of this process. They will have to make the agreement. And I think that there's reason for hope."

He made his comments in the Rose Garden during a photo opportunity with Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin.

Fundamentalists, leftists protest 'Gaza-Jericho' plan

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Muslim fundamentalists joined hands with leftists Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist hardline Palestinian groups and Islamic fundamentalist movements — was the first such event in Jordan after the PLO and Israel announced the Gaza-Jericho first plan late last month.

The Islamist-dominated demonstration by a crowd of between 300 and 400 people was launched from the Nabulsi Mosque inside the sprawling camp of 100,000 Palestinian refugees, most of them who fled the West Bank in 1967.

The low number of protesters were attributed by activists to the strong influence that the mainstream Fatah faction, led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, wields in the camp.

"There are political forces at play trying to dilute the opposition to the Gaza-Jericho agreement," said a resident. "But within themselves those who are staying away (from the rally) know that the plan is treason. They will come out to the streets when the time is right, when there can no longer be any excuses or covers for Arafat to hide behind."

It also appeared that not all groups in Damascus Ten were part of the protest. Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, were the leading forces in the rally.

Emotions against the Gaza-Jericho plan, seen by many as a sellout of the Palestinian cause, were charged to a fever pitch by the Friday sermon at the mosque by a clergyman, variously identified as Sheikh Musa, Sheikh Omar and Sheikh Ahmad, before the rally started winding through the narrow streets of the crowded camp.

"Who appointed the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people... so that it could bargain over the rights of the Palestinian people?" asked the sheikh.

"We are all sons of Palestine and we reject not only the Gaza-Jericho plan but also the entire peace process," he declared, urging the worshippers to "emphatically let their rejection be known to the traitors."

The preacher assailed every aspect of the autonomy plan, including the limited control that the Palestinians will have under the arrangement while the Israelis will control security.

"The Palestinians will be doing nothing except cleaning the streets and municipal duties in addition to trying to control the infidels in Gaza," he said.

Mr. Arafat "is going to be nothing but an Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza and Jericho," he asserted, setting a key phrase for the protest march that followed.

Half a dozen youths, their faces covered with the chequered Palestinian headdress or the green Islamic flag, rode in an open pick-up mounted with loudspeakers as the nucleus of the protest. Camp residents scrambled to their rooftops to wave black flags in a sign of protest or the Palestinian national flag.

A handful of bearded elders from the camp led the rally as small boys holding aloft the Holy Koran flanked them under the watchful eye of a few security men.

The burst of what at first appeared to be gunshots created a small panic, but then it turned out that someone was celebrating a wedding with firecrackers.

Young children outnumbered adults in the march. One six-year-old, Ashraf, whose parents are from Jericho, said the would like to go back if the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan "worked." But he was immediately voted down by elder boys.

"We would like to go back to the whole of Palestine, not just a piece of land," three of them shouted in chorus.

Speakers representing groups in the Damascus Ten wielded the microphone at various junctures to exhort the crowd with themes such as "Arafat is a traitor."

"The Gaza-Jericho plan is a sell-out to the Zionists. If the U.S. has fighter planes we have God and our will to fight the Israelis," and "Jerusalem will be liberated."

"No to self-rule, no to treason," they chanted. "No to surrender, yes to jihad."

"I was always in the front of previous rallies here in support of Abu Ammar (Arafat)," said a youth who gave his name as Khaled. "I used to shout 'with my blood and soul we redeem you Abu Ammar.' But the situation has changed now. Abu Ammar has sold us out."

It was quite apparent that leftist groups in the Damascus Ten — formed early this year to press Palestinian opposition to the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991 — preferred to stick to nationalist slogans while the Islamists brought in slogans revolving around the theme, "Jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine."

And, perhaps for the first time in public in the camp, repeated questions were raised over the legitimacy of the PLO.

"The (1974) Rabat (Arab summit) decision to name the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people was a conspiracy," said Muslim Brotherhood activist Hammam Sa'ad, a former member of the Jordanian Parliament from Amman.

"It is the duty and obligation of the Arab and Islamic worlds to foil the (Gaza-Jericho) programme and the so-called peace process," said Dr. Sa'ad, addressing the crowd from the back of the pick-up after the rally wound up at the sports ground of Beqaa Social Club.

"The PLO leaders are nothing but a bunch of criminals and traitors," he said. "We, the sons of Palestine, will resist this surrender of our rights through jihad."

Mansour Murad, also a former deputy but a leftist activist, said the PLO had lost all credibility.

"They are trying to sell the rights of the Palestinian people and we, Jordanians and Palestinians, will foil them," he told the rally.

Organisers of the rally announced that they were calling a "Palestinian national conference on a level equal to that of the Palestine National Council" next week to "discuss the autonomy plan and decide on future action."

To emphasise their protest against what they see as American collusion in working out the Gaza-Jericho plan, the demonstrators also burned an American and an Israeli flag from atop a mosque overlooking the sports ground.



Demonstrators Friday march through the Beqaa refugee camp outside of Amman (staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

10,645 freshmen accepted at state universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 10,645 freshmen students have been accepted at the four state universities in Jordan for the new academic year 1993-1994, according to an announcement by committee that coordinated the acceptance process.

Committee Chairman Mohammad Maqousi told a press conference Thursday that of the total, 4,035 have been accepted at the University of Jordan, 3,130 at Yarmouk University, 2,095 at Muta University's civilian and military wings, 1,145 at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), in addition to 240 students at the Applied Engineering College in Amman.

According to Dr. Maqousi the lowest tawjihi average accepted at Muta University was 75.9 per cent, at Yarmouk 77.8 per cent, at the University of Jordan 78.6 per cent and at JUST 79.2 per cent.

Dr. Maqousi said the four universities have assigned 10 per cent of the seat to students from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, five per cent to the expatriates and five per cent to those who passed tawjihi examination in previous years.

He said the committee had received 20,138 applications of which 548 applications were rejected because the average of the applicants in the tawjihi examination was below the required 65 per cent.

Mr. Maqousi said registration for classes is due to start Saturday and will continue for four days.

500 thoracic specialists to hold 3-day conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The first pan-Arab conference on thoracic medicine and surgery, is due to open at the University of Jordan on Sept. 7 with the participation of 500 specialists from Jordan and other Arab and foreign countries.

The three-day 30-session conference has been organised by the Jordanian Cardiologists and Thoracic Surgeons Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan, the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) and the Royal Medical Service, said Abdullah Al Qudsh chairman of a committee preparing for the conference.

Economic restructuring programme benefits Jordan, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's economic performance in the first seven months of 1993 shows that the country is benefitting from the economic restructuring programme, according to Finance Minister Sami Gammo.

The first seven months of this year reflected an economic growth rate of six per cent, said the minister at a meeting with representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Thursday.

The economic restructuring programme aims at ensuring 3.5 to 6.5 per cent growth between 1994 and 1998, said the minister in his statement released Friday.

Referring to customs issues, Mr. Gammo said several finance ministry committees were currently discussing a number of issues to simplify and facilitate customs procedures and the collection of taxes in a more equitable manner.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
AT THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN
TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816894

The Directorate and the staff of the New English School would like to congratulate all students (Grades 4-12) who have been awarded academic scholarships for the 1993-1994 academic session and to convey to them every good wish for successful studies ahead.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES
AT THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL AGAIN!
P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN
TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816894

Congratulations are extended to students and parents of the New English School community on the splendid success rate in the external examination results for the Boards of the Universities of London and Cambridge.

Best wishes, too, to all the Tawjihi students on a combined performance that ranked well above the national average.

This year, the vast majority of the candidates who presented themselves were home-grown Jordanians who have been brought up through the school ranks — a fine tradition for future N.E.S. students to emulate.

Overall, students managed to secure a pass rate of 95.2% in the I.G.C.S.E. Performances in the G.C.E 'O' level 'A' level examinations were also particularly impressive.

A quarter of all grades scored were at Grade A standard and the list of students scoring 5 A's or more is larger than ever before. Based on such fine results, degree courses have been secured in establishments such as the University of London, the M.I.T., Boston University, the A.U.B., McGill University and many more. Long may such success continue.

All best wishes to the student and parent body are accorded by the staff and the administration of the N.E.S. on such a fine combined performance.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Arab calligraphy exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- New art gallery, "Dar al-Fann," of the Abdul Majed Shomaa Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Lawadibeh.
- Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Issa at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Rihana Najjar at Rihana Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

JOB VACANCIES

PROJECT MANAGER

7-10 years experience in the following:

- Construction Management and Supervision.
- Preparing and Monitoring Work Schedules using the CPM Method.

SITE SUPERVISORS

5-7 years experience.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANTS

2-3 years experience in the following:

- English & Arabic Typing.
- General Office Skills.
- Computer Literacy (Apple Macintosh or IBM).

All Applications enclosing C.V. should be sent not later than 11.09.1993 to P.O. Box 925 971, 11110 Amman, Jordan. (Fax No. 606 890).

All Applications will be treated as PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS COMPANY - C.C.C. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A) SENIOR FOXPRO DEVELOPERS

University graduates, fluent in English, at least 3 years Foxpro applications programming (DOS/ WINDOWS), C/C++ programming a definite asset, Windows DLL and API programming a definite asset, Novel exposure desirable.

B) NOVELL LAN ADMINISTRATORS

University graduates, fluent in English, at least 2 years in installing and supporting Novell 3.11 Networks.

C) TELE-COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

University graduate, fluent in English, experienced in architecting and integrating multi-platform, multi-topology, multi-protocol telecom solutions for data, voice and image carriage over local and wide area networks. Able to technically evaluate, select, install, and operate all LAN-WAN related telecomm gear such as bridges, routers, etc.

D) AUTOCAD ENGINEERS

University graduate, fluent in English, 2 years experience in Autocad 2.11 or higher, LISP experience desirable.

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Elevation after disquiet

THE INITIAL Arab reaction to Palestinian-Israeli agreement over the "Gaza-Jericho first" option was characterised mostly by surprise but also by some dismay over the method used to reach the accord. Such reaction is understandable from the point of view that the Palestinians and Israelis, had almost virtually kept everyone in the dark over their secret negotiations in Norway and other capitals, and also bypassed the people and formula involved in the Madrid-Washington peace talks.

After Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's early declared intentions to achieve a breakthrough in his country's negotiations with Syria, the Palestinians pushed for what has become regular Arab coordination sessions. The Palestinians had feared, and rightly so, that an agreement between Syria and Israel would leave them out in the cold. Jordan, being the country that provided the Palestinians with an umbrella to enter the talks and which is the party most involved in the Palestinian cause, has also had all the right to feel uneasy about an impending accord between Palestinians and the Israelis without proper coordination.

Now that the features of the accord have become clearer and most people have overcome the initial shock, the pace of the talks in Washington seems to be picking up, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The Arab side has always argued that the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian problem, and that in order to achieve peace the Israelis have to deal with the Palestinians directly and meet their demands for self-determination and statehood. And since the issue of Palestine and the conflict over it seem to be witnessing a breakthrough, the least the Arabs can do is to bless the independent will of the Palestinians and find ways by which to help them achieve their true goals of nationhood, especially in the final stage of negotiations, which is going to be the toughest of all. The Palestinians, dispersed all over the region, are now agonising and will continue to be over the Oslo agreement. The Palestinian leadership, namely Chairman Arafat, will need the support of the whole nation if he is to succeed in this endeavour. For any agreement between the Palestinians and the concerned Arab parties, on one hand, and Israel on the other to hold and mature, the whole Arab Nation should be ready with its blessing and unequivocal support.

After all, peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis alone is not enough.

For the peace to last and to be accepted by all the future generations, each country in the region and every nation that has a stake in the stability of the Middle East should positively contribute towards its success. The moderate, pragmatic faction in the Palestinian camp is facing a formidable battle with both the Israeli hardliners and their own. The months ahead will witness opposition and even conflict within the Palestinian house. That is why His Majesty King Hussein's call on the Arabs to close their ranks and get their act together comes at the right moment and requires positive response. These are really historic, but trying, times. The opportunity for a better deal, in both the regional and international arenas, must not be wasted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily echoed King Hussein's regret at lack of coordination among Arab parties has led to the recent confused situation. Referring to the King's television interview, parts of which were telecast Wednesday night, the paper said that the Arab Nation is deeply divided, not only due to the Gulf crisis but also because of talks with Israel. The paper pointed out that the Arabs have no cards to play, except through their joint stand at the peace talks, particularly in view of Israel's military superiority, supported by the United States and in the sense of a strong United Nations, to impose the international legitimacy. It is regrettable to see a retreat from coordination among the Arab parties involved in talks with Israel and it is a pity that such lack of coordination would encourage Israel and the United States to force the Arabs give more and unjustified concessions to the Israelis, added the paper. Noting that Jordan is surprised to hear about the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, the paper said that many Palestinians, including those in leadership, were not informed of this move either. Jordan, the paper, can not impose anything on others, and the Palestinians have all the right to take their own, free decision, pressing their free will concerning their own destiny. But, it is, since the future of the Palestinian land is of concern to all the Arabs, it becomes necessary for the Arab leaders to convene a summit and take appropriate decisions reflecting their joint stand a-vis the historic events now taking place in the region.

The Gaza-Jericho first option is the logical outcome of the Arab losses and defeats in the wars with Israel. The United States and its allies, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour. All these talks, concessions, disputes and disappointments would not have been necessary had the Arabs been united, and determined to regain their usurped lands, said the paper. The Palestinians were not defeated in June 1967, because they did not fight a war, but the defeat was that of the Arab order, the face of the successes achieved by the U.S.-led western coalition during the cold war which saw the demise of the Soviet Union, added the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

Palestinian nation can wait for a better deal

FOR ALL practical and technical purposes, there is little chance of Yasser Arafat's changing his mind on the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option. The ongoing meetings in Tunis are nothing but an orchestrated campaign aimed at imparting an impression of Palestinian consensus over the issue amid continued protests from his own colleagues as well as from the rank and file of Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories or outside.

Even if the Palestinian information media comes out with loud proclamation of support for Mr. Arafat, it can fool nobody. The situation in the Middle East problem has reached an extent where realities can no longer be sidelined and mouths can not be gagged anymore since the Palestinian struggle has come to a make-or-break point.

To say the least, the manoeuvring of Mr. Arafat, the long-reigning chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the notional state of Palestine, reek of autocracy and personal ambitions.

The main difference between Mr. Arafat and many other Palestinian leaders is simple: Mr. Arafat would like to see himself formally installed as president of Palestine even if that Palestine meant one square kilometre of territory under guns. Others believe that despite the superior military strength of Israel and the almost unlimited support the Jewish state gets from the West, particularly the U.S., the battle is not lost and they could wait a few years more, hoping to make the occupied territories totally ungovernable for the Israelis.

That was indeed the inherent objective of the Palestinian intifada when it started in the occupied territories in December 1987. That was the answer of the people under occupation who were fed up with their brethren outside unable to do anything but adopt resolutions and issue rhetoric after meeting in luxurious hotels while they themselves were suffering under the yoke of occupation.

The key question that Mr. Arafat has to ask himself is: Is the prospect of governing the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as nothing

more than a municipality with little or no independence at all, worth the thousands of lives that the Palestinian people sacrificed throughout the years?

Is that what the millions of Palestinians languishing in refugee camps in the occupied territories and outside deserve after all these years of suffering?

To be fair to Mr. Arafat, long considered the symbol of Palestinian struggle and nationalism, we have to admit that the man has led the Palestinian march through severe crises and managed to keep some semblance of an organised movement (that is if we overlook the steady defection from the ranks of the organisation over the years).

But a closer look will clearly show that the dissent within the PLO mostly stemmed from Mr. Arafat's autocratic approach to decision-making and his intolerance for voices that opposed his viewpoint and policies. So, if Mr. Arafat managed to keep the mainstream PLO mostly in one piece through the crises, that was because what was at stake was not the future of the organisation but his own, personal survival.

It would be naive to go by the long-held view that if Mr. Arafat had departed from the scene, the PLO would have collapsed. There was and still is more than enough young blood in the Palestinian ranks to replace Mr. Arafat.

But a marked difference has emerged today. The policies and approach of Mr. Arafat have taken the PLO to the brink of collapse. His moves in the past year have somehow been oriented towards dismantling PLO institutions. The most vivid example of such a strategy came in the form of a recent order issued by Mr. Arafat to set up a committee to look into "retrenchment compensation" for the staff of many PLO institutions.

The net picture that emerges from a close look at the status of the PLO today is an intertwining of the future of the PLO with that of Mr. Arafat. If Mr. Arafat goes down today, whoever inherits his place will have one hell of a time trying to reorganise things within the PLO. But what is more important is the fact that

going down with Mr. Arafat will not only be the credibility and legitimacy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation but also the representative status of the movement.

On the other hand, if the mainstream PLO leadership manages to convince Mr. Arafat that his personal ambitions should be placed above the higher national interests of the Palestinian nation at large and to bring about fundamental changes in the PLO decision-making process, the movement could still be salvaged.

But then, the question remains: Is Mr. Arafat in a frame of mind, today, after so many years of autocracy, to change tracks and look at things differently?

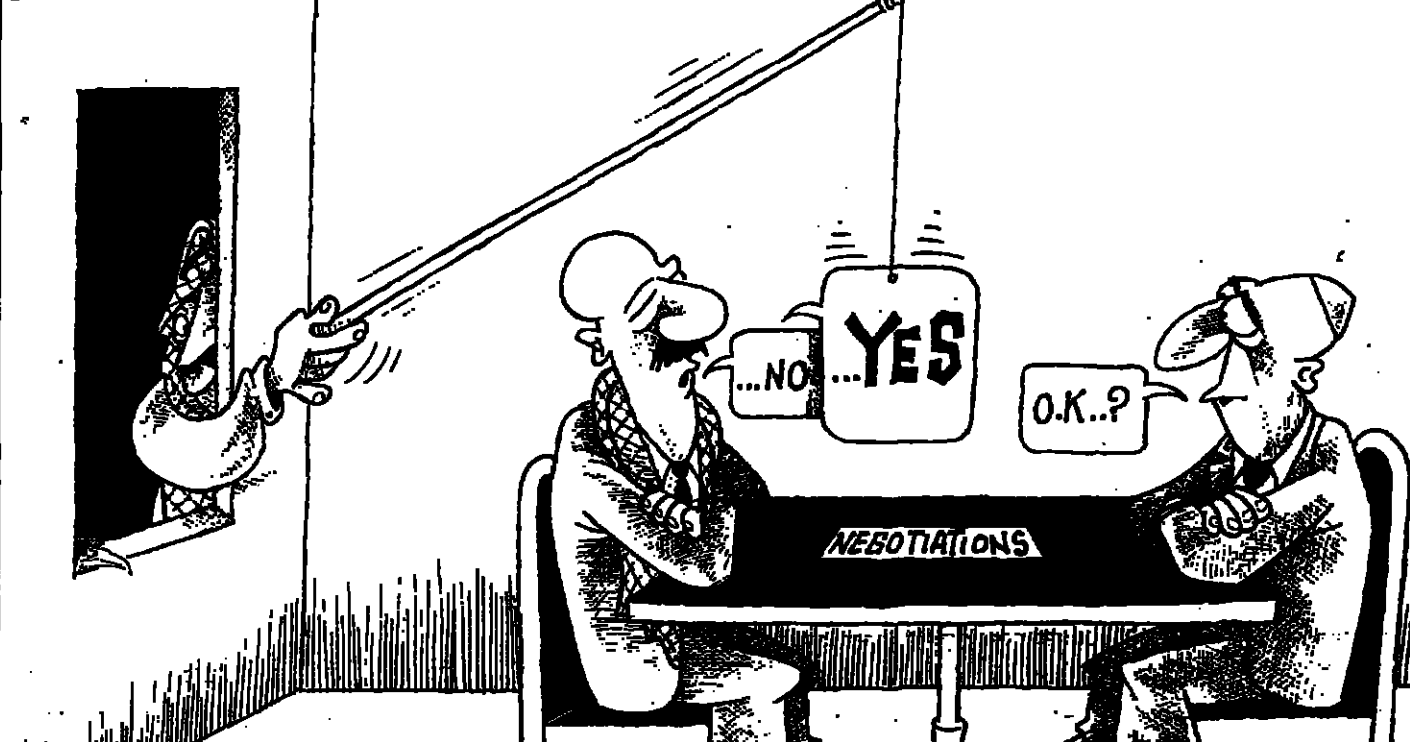
Can he learn to understand that it is important to be important, but not to the extent where personal importance means everything even if it implies a total belittling of the efforts and sacrifices of others? Can he be taught to learn that it is vital to respect the opinion of others?

But what will happen to the peace process in the meantime? Can the so-called "declaration of principles" which is directly tied to mutual Israel-PLO recognition and the Gaza-Jericho first option wait until order is restored to the PLO house?

I would venture to say yes. The Palestinian nation has waited so long for the realisation of its aspiration to independence and freedom that it could wait a little longer if it means a better deal for the Palestinians.

That is not to underestimate the pressure that would be applied on the Palestinians from all quarters not to let go of what the U.S. and the West describe as "the golden opportunity and historic agreement." But then, as far as the Palestinian people is concerned, there is nothing golden or historic in the Gaza-Jericho first option. It only means occupation in a different form and a consolidation of moves to settle the Palestinian problem with quarter-cooked solutions and imagery of better days which may never come.

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Media split over Gaza-Jericho option

Reviewed by Elias Nasrallah

The Gaza-Jericho first option was the issue tackled by editorials and columnists' articles in the local Arabic press in the past week. Prospects for a Middle East peace and domestic issues also featured in the press.

The fact that the Palestinians and the Israelis have reached agreement that the autonomy rule should start with Gaza and Jericho first means that the past 10 rounds of peace negotiations were not held in vain, said Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Perhaps this is the first time that the Israelis and the Palestinians are taking practical and reasonable steps to end the long conflict that had plagued the region for generations, said the writer.

Praising the efforts of the Palestinians in this regard, the writer said one has to remember that the 1000-mile journey starts with a little step.

His colleague in Al Ra'i, Fahd Al Faneh, criticised the step as not fulfilling the dream of the Palestinians to have their own state. The agreement, as it stands, provides for Israel to remain in control of the Palestinian lands as it will be in charge of overall security and will retain its settlements in the Arab territory, said the writer.

It is regrettable, said the writer, to see that such an agreement had not been endorsed by the Arab parties as a whole, a situation which reflects lack of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process, he added.

Salameh Ekour, in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Gaza-Jericho first proposal is something that the Arabs must resist. This proposal delays any discussion of the Holy City of Jerusalem, which is holy for the Arabs and Muslims, said the writer. It seems that the PLO leadership is selling out the rights of the Palestinians and the Muslims in the Holy City and accepting a meagre part of the occupied territories

which are overwhelmed by the Israeli settlements that would never be removed, said the writer.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan has all the right to voice suspicion about the Gaza-Jericho first option because of the prospect of Israel's transferring large numbers of Palestinians to the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He said that in this case, Jordan will be facing the question of whether to close the bridges across the River Jordan in order to prevent an exodus of Palestinians into Jordan.

The 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks is bound to be dominated by the Gaza-Jericho first proposal, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. The Arab parties are bound to be demanding details about this proposal because they have to coordinate their steps with regard to their own negotiations with Israel, added the daily.

It should be noted, said the paper, that the Arab parties had earlier announced that no agreement should be reached unilaterally and that consensus should be the norm; therefore, said the paper, the proposal over Gaza and Jericho could be described as an Israeli attempt to fragment the peace process.

Mohammad Daoud said in Al Dustour that The Gaza-Jericho first option was behind the crisis within the PLO and behind the dispute between the Palestinian negotiators and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

The writer said that opposition to the proposal should be taken very seriously by the PLO leadership if it is keen on preserving unity within its own ranks.

Mahmoud Rimawi cautioned the PLO leadership against accepting Israel's condition of deleting parts of the Palestine National Charter which calls for non-recognition of Israel. The columnist, who writes

for Al Ra'i daily, said that as long as the Palestinians have not regained their rights usurped since 1948, they should by no means abandon their demands and their lands.

The Palestinians should adhere to their national charter until a final settlement has been reached, ensuring Palestinian people's rights, he demanded.

Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the PLO remains a symbol for the Palestinian people, but at the same time the PLO leadership remains subject to criticism for lack of reform.

The writer said that it is not enough that the symbol exist in words, it should also manifest itself by deeds.

She said that the disputes within the PLO and the recent resignations by a number of its leaders indicate that there is an opposition to the idea of the Gaza-Jericho first or other issues. She said that the PLO leadership ought to adapt to the new situation and introduce reform else it could be facing cancellation.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab demanded that the Health Ministry disclose to the public the cause of the typhoid fever that spread in the past week in the Ajloun district.

It was a wise step of the ministry to take extra precautionary measures against the spread of the disease, but the ministry should openly announce the causes of the infection so that the public can take precautions against it, said Ahmad Dabbas. The writer said in case of any epidemic burying the head in the sand does not solve anything.

A columnist in Al Dustour described unemployment as the cancer of the Jordanian society, leading people to desperation, committing crimes or even rising in rebellion against society.

Mohammad Sbeih said there was no doubt that unemployment would be the main thing in the electoral platform of candidates running for par-

liamentary elections in November since this is a national issue. But he noted that one can find a way of resolving the problem through the Social Security Corporation which can be developed to cover unemployment benefits for the job-seekers.

He suggested that a special tax be imposed on the public and the workers so that the government can collect sufficient funds to give the unemployed until they can get a job.

What we need, said the writer, is to see the future deputies in Parliament not merely talking about this issue but taking practical steps to solve the problem.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that most of the candidates running for parliament in Jordan are trying to reach there for the sake of imposing their will later through the executive authority. Most Parliamentarians hope to be members of government and acquire real executive power in Jordan, said Mohammad Kawash. He said that the government in Jordan should not include any member of Parliament which can deal with legislations only and thus safeguard real democracy in the country.

Hosni Ayesh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that some Arab countries are blaming the Jordanian Parliament and the press for the strained ties between Jordan and the Arab states.

The writer said that under a democracy, the press and Parliament are free to express their views and those of the people, unlike the parliaments and the press of the other Arab countries which are strictly controlled by the state.

It seems, said the writer, that the other Arab countries are hostile to Jordan not because of its nationalist stand during the Gulf crisis, but because of the democracy exercised in the Kingdom and which is considered dangerous to their regimes.

LETTERS

God's creatures too

To the Editor:

In reply to the letter from Eliane Abdul Malek, "who comes first?" (Jordan Times, Aug. 29, 1993), I have to say I am amazed and appalled at such an attitude.

As I said in my letter the same day, there already is a system which is there to "deal quickly and effectively with a situation of this type: but it does not always work so efficiently as it should. Ambulances do pick up injured people very quickly. Ignoring a terribly badly injured animal, such as the horse in question which was in excruciating pain in excessive heat, would have soon caused problems. It would have died anyway and its carcass would still have had to be removed, particularly as it was in the middle of a residential area.

Arguing that human beings are more important does not hold. The human problems of the world are not happening because some people choose to help animals. I must point out that there are several hundreds of charities helping human beings in Jordan, and only two helping animals in a comparatively small way. Just because someone loves animals it doesn't mean human beings have to be neglected. Likewise, to ignore or neglect a suffering animal because human beings are more important, does not benefit the latter. One can still be compassionate to both. To ignore an injured animal in such agony as this horse was, would be a gross act of inhumanity. Are we expected to forget all about animals until the last human mouth is fed? When would that be?

Man has domesticated many species of animals to the extent where they are now utterly dependent on him. Therefore, man must be responsible for their proper care and protection.

Jordan is not entirely "not animal-friendly", especially that animal health is human wealth. Without these animals many families could not earn their living.

It should be common sense to protect everything God gave life to — animals, nature and us. We must not forget that animals were also his creation and that they are living sentient beings and not inanimate objects to be pushed around as we please. We can speak, they cannot. They are here to stay and are not going to disappear just because the world is full of human problems, (which are mostly brought about by humans). Therefore spare a thought for them. They have a place on this earth as well.

The book "Islamic Concern for Animals" by Al Hafiz B. Masri tells how the Koran condones kindness to animals. I quote from it: "The Holy Prophet used to say, 'Whoever is kind to the creatures of God, is kind to himself.' The Prophet was asked if acts of charity even to the animals were rewarded by God. He replied: 'Yes there is a reward for acts of charity to every beast alive'."

Let us hope a day will dawn when the great religious teaching may at last begin to bear fruit...when man accords to animals the respect and status they have long deserved and for so long have been denied.

Miss Chris Larter,
Publicity Officer for the
Jordanian Society for the
Protection of Animals,
Amman.

No contradiction here !

To the Editor:

With respect to what Eliane Abdul Malek says in her letter, "Who comes first?" (Jordan Times, August 29, 1993) concerning the plight of the maimed horse found abandoned in Abdoun recently, I want to ask whether there is really a conflict between animals' suffering and care for human beings.

Do we have to wait until the last human mouth has been fed, until the last war has been fought, before we turn our attention to the needs of our animals? Surely, the compassion we feel for our fellow human beings and the animals that share this planet can go hand in hand. I might remind Ms. Abdul Malek that the animals that we have domesticated over thousands of years are our responsibility and societies like the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA) provide a valuable service to the owners of working animals. By forming animal welfare societies, nobody is suggesting that animals come before human beings, as was implied by Ms. Abdul Malek. Yes, there is too much human suffering in this world and, yes, those people deserve our help and support, but so do the animals that share our planet, that work for us and give so much joy and pleasure to so many people.

I find the writer's attitude very complacent. It's so easy to turn away from a creature's suffering or ill treatment because it does not concern us, to use the excuse that there is enough human suffering without concerning ourselves with a mutilated horse. It should concern us all, be it human or animal suffering. Haven't we got enough compassion to go around?

We, as human beings, take so much from this planet and give very little back. Perhaps, by showing consideration to and care for the animals that share this good earth with us we would take a step in the right direction. We can address both problems, human and animal suffering, at the same time, perhaps not equally or with the same vigour, but the plight of our animals should not be ignored. After all, they are God's creatures too.

Mrs. J. Maari,
P.O. Box 6181,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan completes disengagement process with Palestinians, but keeps door open

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Yet the King kept the door open for further consultations with the PLO and at the same time strongly resented any Israeli-influenced formulae.

In the lengthy interview the King avoided any explicit challenge to the PLO and its role while he tried to reconcile between reasserting respect for the independence of the Palestinian decision and Jordan's keenness to distance itself from any responsibility for concessions that were made in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

His subtle and implicit style gave way to interpretations that Jordan is blessing the contents of the accord while a careful reading shows that it supports any Palestinian decision regardless of any reservations that it could harbour.

The King's statement signalled a shift from a relationship of an assumed "partnership" that has obviously failed so far to overcome the bitterness and suspicions of the past to that of two separate parties — at least in the immediate term — whose decisions do not have to be interlinked.

The implied disengagement of Jordanian and Palestinian decisions, according to the interview, has not been determined by a Jordanian decision but a reaction to the PLO's attempt to assert its independence from Jordan.

"His Majesty was speaking as a concerned Arab leader rather than a party directly involved in determining the future of Palestine," said one Jordanian source who is familiar with King Hussein's thinking.

The practical implications of the new Jordanian approach are not clear yet. But, according to Jordanian sources, the King is still studying the situation and his top priority will be

to protect Jordanian national and security interests.

But officials and analysts believe that Jordan's next step will depend, to a great extent, on the next move by the PLO.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has obviously got the message conveyed by the King's telephone call from Tunis Friday.

Jordanian officials, and even some Palestinian officials, were critical of Mr. Arafat's consultations with Egypt, Morocco and Tunis in the last few days while ignoring Jordan, which many in both sides still firmly believes has an intertwined future with Palestine.

There was no official Palestinian reaction but the PLO leadership is expected to feel under pressure to try to improve coordination with Jordan, especially that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to implement the Israeli-Palestinian accord or begin to discuss final status arrangements without Jordan.

Furthermore, there is more pressure than ever on Mr. Arafat from within the PLO, including from groups that until a few years ago had categorically rejected association with Jordan, to reach an understanding with King Hussein on a joint strategy and the form of the future relationship — away from Israeli, American or even Egyptian influence.

Since the onset of the Israeli-Arab talks 22 months ago, Jordan has been complaining publicly and privately about the lack of sufficient coordination between Jordan and the PLO and the Arab parties to the talks generally. Jordanian officials, have particularly been disconcerted by Mr. Arafat's constant close coordination with Egypt and apparent attempt to keep a distance from Jordan.

In the interview, King Hussein revealed that Mr. Arafat

had actually notified him about the start of the secret negotiations with Israel, prior to the King's departure to Washington last June, and that on his last visit in August, the PLO chairman took him aside and told him that there was a sort of proposal involving a deal based on the establishment of early Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza Strip first.

But, according to the King, the Palestinian leader did not put him fully in the picture and did not consult with him before signing the draft agreement.

"We have not been in the picture... we were not aware of the details," the King said.

According to both Jordanian

and PLO officials, Mr. Arafat's reliance on Egypt largely reflected his fear of what he perceives as Jordanian, and specifically Hashemite, threat and potential rivalry to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

King Hussein, who is said to be fully aware and pained by Mr. Arafat's thinking that has roots in the turbulent history between Jordan and the organisation, sternly defended his family's role and refuted claims that they sought tutelage over the Palestinians.

In the interview the King put his brief account of the relationship between the Hashemites and Palestine, arguing that his family has always been

attached and faithful to Palestine and refused to compromise on the status of Jerusalem and has not sought "patronage" of the Palestinian cause.

"Right from the very beginning, this family (the Hashemites) has always been committed to Palestine in terms of safeguarding Palestinian national rights on Palestinian land and to Jerusalem by protecting rights of the Muslims and the Christians and defending the city," the King stressed.

King Hussein invoked the memory of his great grandfather Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali who was exiled by the British mandate authorities for refusing

to compromise his goal of an independent unified Arab World and a free Palestine.

"Hussein the First was the first to confront those plots (against Jerusalem). He chose to sacrifice everything rather than to compromise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland," the King said.

He argued that the Hashemites continued carrying out their commitment towards Palestine up until 1974 when the PLO sought an independent representation of the Palestinians and to put an end to what it viewed as "the Hashemite patronage," at an Arab summit in Morocco.

"...My brother the Palestinian president, who was then the PLO chairman urged the Arabs to save him and the Palestinian people from Jordanian patronage," the King recalled with obvious pain touching on a deep wound that the conflict and competition for the representation have caused for both sides.

The King's call for an Arab summit to discuss a new pattern of inter-Arab relations, combined with his apparent decision to leave the PLO to shoulder the responsibility for any compromise alone are expected to increase the internal pressures on Mr. Arafat to

seriously reconsider his relationship with Jordan.

There are trends in both camps, which seek a total disengagement, but the overwhelming trend, both in Jordan and the PLO, so far seems to be that of those who want to establish a sound relationship on equal footing, according to officials and analysts.

Consequently, these analysts and officials expect to see moves by Jordanians and Palestinians in the next two weeks to try to contain an aggravation of the differences and to look for new horizons in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship on all levels.

Peres: Syrian track pushed

(Continued from page 1)

He emphasised the role which he believed the European Community (EC) should play in the economic development of the region, and in particular the occupied territories.

"France, among the twelve (EC members) will actively work for the community to get involved economically and financially," he said.

He said France was already cooperating in a big way in training and hoped to develop this further, particularly in the area of language teaching. Mr. Peres said Israel intended to join the group of French-speaking countries.

Mr. Peres caught a plane to Biarritz, southwest France, and was driven to Latche, where he had nearly three hours of talks with President Francois Mitterrand.

After their meeting Mr. Mitterrand told reporters: "I want to stress the extreme importance I attach to the ongoing negotiations and how much we hope to see a happy outcome, that is peace."

"What the Israeli government is doing bears the mark of great intellectual and political courage, as well as a deep understanding of events and history."

"It is a question of grasping the time to come by choosing peace on reasonable bases, in the interests of all, of the world, of the region, of the Arab peoples, of Palestinians, but also of Israel."

Mr. Peres paid tribute to Mr. Mitterrand as "a friend of our country and our people," reiterating: "We are all ready for peace. It is the only outcome for Arabs, for us and for the world. I am convinced that we will succeed."

Mr. Peres was scheduled to return to Paris later in the day, where he will spend the Sabbath. Meanwhile the Norwegian embassy in Paris revealed that Mr. Peres had dined on Thursday night with Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, mediator in the peace negotiations in Norway, whose arrival in the French capital was kept secret.

Officials at the Israeli embassy in Paris told reporters that Mr. Peres and Mr. Holst dined together with aides on Thursday but that the occasion was "entirely social."

"As you can imagine, they have now become close friends," one official told Reuters.

There were no meetings between the two men on Friday when Mr. Peres gave a radio interview before breakfasting with Mr. Juppe and later flying to the meeting with Mr. Mitterrand, he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said he does not think much of the PLO, but added that Israel has no choice other than to recognise it.

"The PLO is not a friendly customer at all," Mr. Rabin told a Labour Party meeting in Tel Aviv on Thursday night, the Haaretz newspaper reported Friday.

"I'm not trying to pretty it up. It's a terrorist organisation whose members have killed and kill still. But who can we make peace with?" he asked.

"Peace has to be made with enemies, even the most hated."

He described recognition of the PLO by Israel, which is expected to take place in the coming days, as "the most difficult political decision that Israel has had to take."

"Even evacuating the Golan was easier than having 120,000 Jewish settlers live with two million Palestinians on the same roads," Mr. Rabin told the meeting following the announcement of the PLO-Israel accord for limited autonomy.

"There is no more complicated solution than the one towards which we are heading because the Israeli-Arab conflict is very complicated," he reportedly said.

"Those who in the past wanted us to recognise the PLO without any conditions do not understand international relations. There is a piece of business involved here. Before proposing something you have to know what the buyer is prepared to give."

Mr. Rabin has demanded that the PLO cut from its charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. He has also demanded that it call an unequivocal halt to "terrorism" and recognise Israel first in exchange for recognition.

Syria praises Israeli seriousness

(Continued from page 1)

peace which will not be affected by local or international changes or events," it said.

Syrian negotiator Mouaffak Al Allaf said at the end of Thursday's session his team was focusing on "the most important issues" in its talks with the Israelis. He said he hoped to reach an outline agreement by the end of this round.

The radio said the two sides finished discussion of the first four clauses in a Syrian document and were moving to a fifth which covers withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

The radio said it was difficult to speculate on whether Israel would offer any substantive change in its position on full withdrawal.

Israelis open fire on Gazans

(Continued from page 1)

agreement. In a telephone call to an international news agency, Hamas said its military wing was responsible.

"We vow to go on with our war against our Israeli enemy and the

But it said that Israel was aware of the Syrian attitude that full withdrawal from the Golan Heights was unquestionable.

"Attempts to extort Syria did not work in the past and will not work now," it said, but it added: "The more Syria insists on regaining full occupied lands the more its readiness to establish firm, solid, real, honourable, just and comprehensive peace."

The commentary also called once again for full cooperation among the Arab peace partners. "Partial solutions and unilateral deals do not make peace but lay the ground for more conflicts and disturbances," the radio said.

"Wisdom dictates that in a thorny and complex conflict like that of the Middle East a comprehensive peace on all fronts should be established."

American enemy behind it, who are trying to humiliate and intimidate our people and liquidate our cause," the caller said. Hamas also said its activists Friday lobbed a grenade that did not explode at a house occupied by Israeli settlers.

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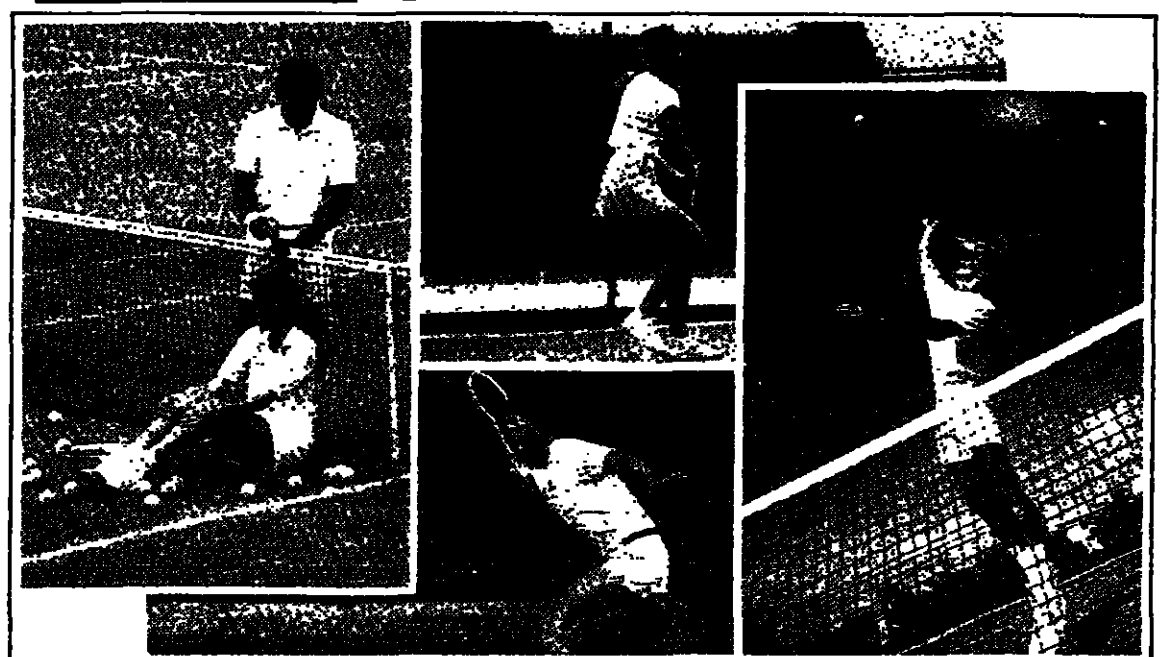
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Saudis may resort to tax, privatisation to cut budget deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia may have to impose minor income taxes and privatise some institutions to cut a nagging budget deficit affecting its oil-dependent economy, Gulf bankers and economists have said.

The deficit, caused by a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade, has forced Saudi Arabia to drain most of its overseas assets and reserves with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The kingdom has been reluctant to make further spending cuts, arguing it would hurt the economy, which depends heavily on government spending.

"Saudi Arabia can cut spending in certain sectors in a way that will not affect performance and services," a Gulf economist said. "But this is not enough because the deficit is not small. It should be coupled with certain measures like imposing small income taxes and privatising public institutions which are not making reasonable profits. The Saudis might be tinkering of such steps because they have no other choice."

Except for token corporate taxes, Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states do not impose income taxes or individuals although all have suffered from a chronic deficit over the last decade.

Most workers in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are foreigners, whose incomes are among the highest in the world.

"Saudi Arabia has around five million workers and a tax of sweep 20 to 100 riyals per month means it will earn more than three billion riyals (\$800 million) a year. This, coupled with small spending cuts and

earnings from selling government shares in public institutions, will enable Saudi Arabia to eliminate the budget deficit," an economic expert said.

Saudi Arabia's economy was thrown into doubt after a series of reports by the New York Times last week that unrestrained spending had slashed its overseas assets to \$51 billion from \$121 billion in the early 1980s.

The paper also cited a secret IMF report advising Riyadh to reduce its budget deficit after it swelled to more than eight per cent of its gross domestic product.

The deficit was projected at \$7.4 billion in 1993, down from \$8 billion in 1992.

In the absence of other major non-oil income sources, Riyadh was forced to withdraw from its reserves and borrow from the local and foreign markets, creating a public debt of nearly \$17 billion.

The problem was aggravated by huge payments to a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

According to bankers, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributed the bulk of the \$36 billion paid by GCC countries to the war effort.

"The Saudi budget deficit is remediable given the country's huge resources. But there is a pressing need for spending cuts and privatisation of some institutions inside and outside the kingdom," a banker said.

"Privatisation will have a dual benefit: It will yield funds for the government and enable it to save money because it is paying large subsidies for several institutions to keep them running."

Bhutto pledges basic structural changes in election manifesto

LAMABAD (AFP) — Former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto, unveiling her party's election manifesto, has promised basic structural changes in the country's economic and political systems.

"We are giving a revolutionary manifesto," said Ms. Bhutto, 40, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is pitted against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's Islamic League (PML) in October general elections.

Ms. Bhutto, who ruled from 1985 to 1990 as Pakistan's first woman premier, said if returned to power her party would introduce a "new revolutionary constitution" of business enterprises based on public-private partnership.

She also pledged to set up governments of elected representatives in all districts of the country to decentralise authority and address peoples' problems more effectively.

Ms. Bhutto said a government her party would also review a

tax on farm incomes the caretaker Prime Minister Moen Qureshi has decided to impose as part of reforms to cut the budget deficit.

Instead the PPP would revamp an existing Islamic produce donation system, called ushr, in the agricultural sector to realise "four to five times" more revenues than the tax proposed by the caretakers, she said.

In a stinging attack on Mr. Sharif, who resigned last month as political turmoil cut short his tenure, Ms. Bhutto hit two and a half rule for an unprecedented rise in inflation and the budget deficit.

She said budget deficit was 8.6 per cent of gross domestic product and inflation 12 per cent when she took over in 1988 but her government brought these down to 6.7 per cent and 5.6 per cent.

"The budget deficit jumped to 8.8 per cent and the inflation to 30 per cent during Sharif's rule," she said.

Japan July current account surplus rises to record

TOKYO (R) — Japan's contentious balance of payments surplus widened to a record \$11.82 billion in July from \$9.46 billion a year earlier, the finance ministry said Friday.

Japan is under heavy pressure from the United States and other trade partners to cut its surplus. Economists said failure to come up with ways to redress the imbalance has been behind much of the yen's surge of nearly 20 per cent against the dollar since January.

The nation's trade surplus rose to \$13.89 billion in July from \$11.35 a year ago, the ministry said.

The widening of the balance of payments surplus was well within the range of forecasts by economists. They had predicted that the moribund Japanese economy and the early impact of the strong yen would boost the July current account surplus to somewhere between \$11.2 billion and \$12.6 billion from \$10.71 billion in June, without adjustment for seasonal factors.

Economists said the current account surplus for calendar 1993 was all but certain to top the record \$117.55 billion hit last year. They added, however, that the latest figures were unlikely to cause currency markets to push up the yen immediately.

"I think for the time being the yen will fluctuate around 105 yen to the dollar," said Harumi Ichiki, senior economist at the Sumitomo Life Research Institute.

Economists as well as markets are keen to see what measures the government is likely to take to stimulate the stalled economy and thereby boost demand for imports.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition government has said it will announce a stimulative package around Sept. 20 and a cut in the official discount rate.

Metric momentum builds and befuddles in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The metric system is about to muscle its way into daily life in the United States for the first time. But will the reluctant finally give an inch?

As of Feb. 14, a law will require all U.S. consumer package labels to size up products in metric terms as well as the inches, feet, ounces and pounds Americans inherited from Britain.

"Either (the overall U.S. conversion) is orderly and good, or it's a mess, but we've headed there," says Gary Carver, the director of the metric programme at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. "The U.S. will be a metric country."

So will Americans have to walk a million kilometres (miles) for one of your smiles? Must they replace their quarter-pounders

with 100-gram burgers? And when it's all over, will they end up 1.8 metres (not six feet) under?

Not without both education in metrics and everyday use, experts say, insisting that it is just a matter of time.

Dominic Cardozo, a 22-year-old student, said it was news to him that metrics would be making a command performance at the supermarket. He studied the system for two years in an exclusive secondary school here, but says he barely remembers it now, because "you don't use it."

Iranian-born Mike Shirazi, an engineer by training who works in a food market, said his customers would not recognise metrics when they make it to the shelves.

Nonetheless, specialists say the momentum for metric change is

building, at least inside the government, due to imperatives of global business.

The United States is the only industrialised country in the world not officially using metrics. The government says only three countries worldwide — the United States, Burma and Liberia — have not embraced the system officially, and Washington wants out of the eclectic non-metric club.

"In terms of competitiveness, the U.S. has to join the rest of the world," says Bob Easton of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Back in 1975, Congress passed a metric conversion act meant, the law said, "to coordinate and plan the increasing use of the metric system."

But the voluntary nature of the

bill drove only those businesses with their own international trade motives to make the shift. The rest of the country saw a smattering of local education initiatives, but kept clutching 12-inch rulers and clinging to frequent ruler miles.

Mr. Carver says that now, however, the country is playing catch-up with the rest of the world.

"We don't have a choice. It's inevitable," Mr. Carver says, noting that it is time the U.S. measures up to key U.S. trade partners such as Britain and Canada which used to share the British system but officially have made the change.

Mr. Carver says the Commerce Department reported in April to President Bill Clinton that while

federal agencies slowly are making the transition as required by law, they alone cannot win over more than 250 million people in a country that left behind a king more than 200 years ago but cannot quite let go of the imperial system of measures.

But the little metric secrets, Mr. Carver explains, is that most people in the United States use goods every day, designed and measured in metrics, without realising it. Most U.S. industries have made the switch, from photography to pharmaceuticals, to computers, cars and drinks.

Jennifer Lee, a dry-cleaner originally from South Korea, laughs at the idea of customers asking for clothes alterations in centimetres, but welcomes the change. She already knows her metres and kilos.

Australia wants APEC to combine features of G-7 and EC

SYDNEY (R) — Australia is pressing to turn the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum into an association with strong executive power like the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, Prime Minister Paul Keating has said.

"Australia, this government, has put together the concept of APEC, and in the last 18 months...I've done as much as I can possibly do to develop and promote the concept of an Asia-Pacific G-7," Mr. Keating said in a speech.

The G-7 — comprising Canada, the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and Britain — meets regularly to discuss economic and political ties and trading relationships. It is widely viewed as a voice for major industrialised countries.

Speaking at a trade union conference in Sydney, Mr. Keating said Australia also saw APEC turning into an open regional trading bloc similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Community (EC).

"We've seen the world move into blocs, in North America and Europe," he said. "We don't particularly want to be in a restricted trading bloc. We want to be in an open, regional arrangement."

APEC, an Australian-initiated group formed in 1989, consists of Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, the United States, Canada, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Mr. Keating said the APEC nations represented about 50 per cent of the world's economic output and Australia was still working to turn APEC into a heads-of-government organisation.

An obstacle to such a move is that China considers Taiwan a dependent province and is set to resume control over Hong Kong in 1997.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has proposed an informal meeting of APEC heads of state to coincide with APEC's annual meeting of foreign ministers in Seattle in November.

Kohl urges Germans to take a critical look at virtually their entire way of life

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Germans Friday that they needed to make fundamental changes in the way they think and do things to restore their economic competitiveness.

Presenting a report entitled "Securing Germany's future as an economic location," he said the country had to produce goods more cheaply and flexibly to meet mounting competition from eastern Europe, Asia and the industrialised world.

"I believe the most important thing that is necessary now — and what I hope for from this paper — is a change in people's heads and a rethink," Mr. Kohl told a news conference. "Quite simply, we must be able to review long-standing habits, break up what has become encrusted and set new priorities."

The 110-page report, which Mr. Kohl described as a sober assessment of the country's situation, urges Germans to take a critical look at virtually their entire way of life. Calling for an overhaul of the economic, welfare and education systems, it says Germans must work harder, retire later, rely more on their own initiative and expect less from the state.

The report is essentially a discussion document but it will be followed in the coming years by legislation on cutting corporate taxes, reducing bureaucracy and other matters.

Major themes include rolling back the role of the state and privatising state-owned companies and utilities.

New proposals include allowing the unemployed to work in return for modest pay on top of their unemployment benefit.

"This would give them more chances of getting back into work and prevent them becoming social outsiders," said Economics Minister Guntar Rexrodt, the main author of the report.

Mr. Kohl said Germany's extremely low birth rate and increasing life-expectancy meant action was needed now to ensure that a shrinking workforce would be able to pay the pensions of a growing elderly population in the



Helmut Kohl
ness included "a cost crisis in our companies, the danger of losing our advantage in high technology and problems arising from the globalisation of markets."

But Germany had not yet lost the race and should make better use of its advantages — a good infrastructure and a workforce that was well-trained and generally highly motivated.

U.S. pension funds seek to invest more in China

BEIJING (R) — U.S. financial moguls controlling \$500 billion in pension funds — about one-eighth of the U.S. total — will meet next week in Beijing to explore ways to invest more in China, organisers said Friday.

Philip Schaefer, president of Pensions 2000 of San Francisco, told reporters the conference would bring together about 100 American pension fund and investment managers and about 100 Chinese from major financial institutions and government departments.

"U.S. pension funds already invest in China indirectly, through China funds and Chinese shares listed in the United States," Mr. Schaefer said. "We are looking at ways to increase our investment in China."

He said pension funds in the

United States total more than \$4 trillion, the country's largest single pool of capital, and some 10 per cent is usually earmarked for overseas investment.

"Generally the fastest-growing area is the international sector and within that the fastest-growing sector is in emerging markets, of which China is the greatest," Mr. Schaefer said. "We are here for the long haul. We take a long-term view."

Cohosting the conference called "The Chinese Century — from Wall Street to the Great Wall" is the People's Construction Bank, one of China's four major banks, which specialises in long and medium-term investment.

Bank Vice President Zhou Hanrong said one key focus will be direct and indirect investment by the pension funds in basic

industries and infrastructure, responsible for the economy's worst bottlenecks.

Chinese investors tend to avoid these sectors — including railways, roads, power stations and raw material production — because of the large sums involved and the long pay-back.

But the failure of these sectors to match runaway growth in other areas has become a serious restraint on the economy.

At the conference, the Chinese side will brief the visitors on investment policies, the environment and prospects for these industries. The Americans side will discuss pension fund operations, management, accounting and legal systems, Mr. Zhou said.

Mr. Schaefer described the conference as the start of a important and historic venture.

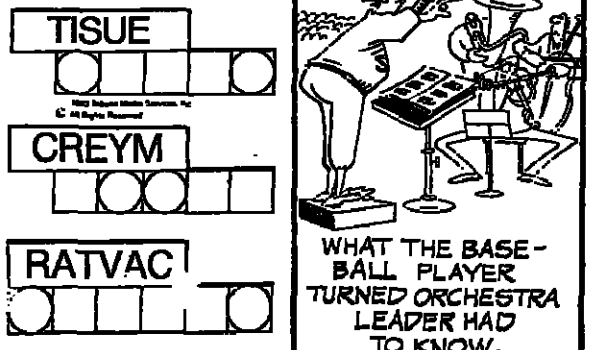
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"There's a story on Page 23 about women who go to extremes to get their husbands to notice them."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Havel Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: CLOVE AHEAD BESIDE PASTRY

Answer: What the playwright turned gardener worked on — "THE FLOT"

Peanuts



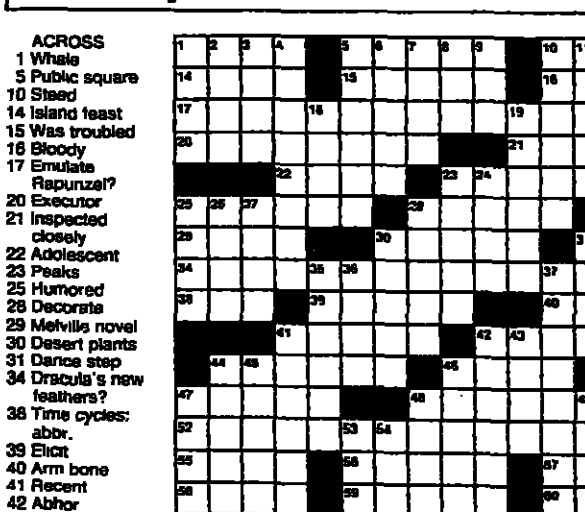
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

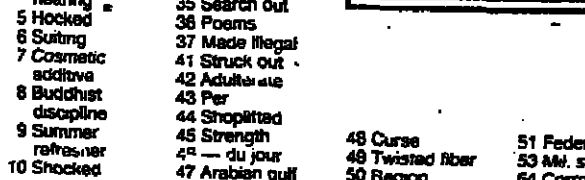
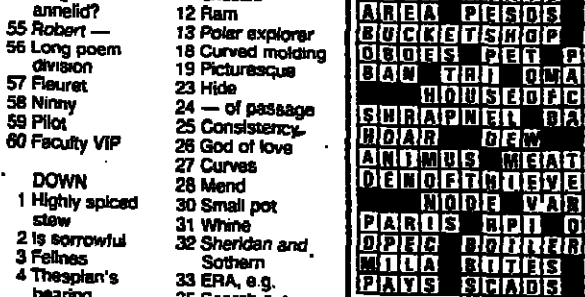


THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth V. Holden



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3225/35	Canadian dollar
	1.6450/60	Deutschmarks
	1.8925/15	Dutch guilders
	2.4460/70	Swiss francs
	35.51/66	Belgian francs
	5.9900/00	French francs
	1602.04/0	Italian lire
	105.55/65	Japanese yen
	8.1300/50	Swedish crowns
	7.1870/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.7800/10	Danish crowns
One sterling	11.5070/20	
One franc of gold	\$363.60/\$64.30	

Sports



Participants in the World Rowing Championships crowd the River Rude near Prague, in preparation for the upcoming finals (AFP photo)

Kasparov courts conflict on and off the board

LONDON (AFP) — Champion Gary Kasparov, the world's strongest ever chess player who will defend his title against British challenger Nigel Short in London next week, has courted conflict and tension both on and off the board.

Speaking at a press conference at the luxury Savoy Hotel where the match will take place, Kasparov recalled the "very unpleasant" treatment he received from Soviet officials before his match against his predecessor as world champion Anatoly Karpov in 1985.

Soviet officials "really did not want me to beat Karpov," Kasparov said. "They felt I was an alien."

Unlike Karpov, whom he has accused of being an apparition of the Communist system, Kasparov, aged 30, has an unconventional background: A Russian national, he was born into a half-Jewish and half-Armenian family in the Azerbaijani capital Baku April 13, 1963.

As Garry Klovich Weinstein he first started moving pieces on a chessboard in 1969, and adopted the family name of his mother Klara Kasparova after his father died the following year.

Kasparov won the Soviet junior chess championship in 1976 at the age of 13.

Thirteen has been Kasparov's lucky number since he defeated Karpov in 1985, becoming the 13th and youngest ever world champion in the history of chess at the age of 22.

The victory did not come easily. Florencio Campomanes, the president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), suspended the marathon match in Moscow after five months, with Karpov 5-3 ahead but said to be physically and emotionally drained.

Kasparov had to wait for a rematch in Moscow six months later to beat his arch-rival and win the coveted title. Since then he has dominated world chess utterly.

Wanted: Aggressive referees for Japan's soccer league

TOKYO (AP) — Saburo Kawabuchi, chairman of Japan's fledgling pro soccer league, isn't worried about attendance, which is terrific, or revenues, which have surpassed all expectations.

His league, in fact, has in just a few months become a bona fide national craze. So what's the problem?

"I need refs."

"He tell them to go ahead and give out cards when some player gets out of line," said Kawabuchi, head of the 10-team J. League. Japan's first fully professional soccer league.

"We encourage them to be more aggressive," he said Friday. "But they are too cautious."

The level of officiating at J. League games has come under fire because of a number of questionable calls and a shoving match last month between popular Brazilian forward Alcindo Sartori and referee Hitoshi Yamada.

Alcindo, infuriated by Yamada's decision to show fellow Brazilian Zico the yellow card for slapping an opponent, shoved a ball in Yamada's chest during a game, but the referee did not punish him.

Alcindo, who is 25 and plays for the Kashima Antlers, then followed Yamada to his room after the game to continue his tirade. The league later suspended him for four games.

Kawabuchi noted that soccer is only a part-time job for many of the officials, making them feel a bit out of their league when confronted by well-known players.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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PERMISSUM PAYS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 4
♥ A Q 10 8 4
♦ K 8 4
♣ K J 9

EAST
♠ Void
♥ K J 9 5 2
♦ Q J 8 5 3
♣ A 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 5 4 3 2
♥ 6
♦ A 7
♣ Q 10 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 3NT Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Don't confuse the impossible with the improbable. Looking only at the North-South hands, it's hard to believe that declarer went down at a four-spade contract. But that's exactly what happened.

For those who play a two-over-one response creates a game force, a two-no-trump rebid by North would be adequate. That would make no difference to the final contract. South would rebid three spades and North would raise to game.

Declarer won the first trick in hand and batted out the ace of spades. When East showed out, declarer could not avoid losing three trump tricks in the fullness of time—down one.

In duplicate, that play would be correct, since it would fall only on those rare occasions when trumps split 4-0, and would produce a valuable overtrick whenever a defender has a singleton honor. At rubber bridge, declarer should have resorted to a safety play to guarantee no more than two losers in the trump suit.

After winning the diamond lead in the closed hand, South should fire out a low trump toward the ten. If West follows low, declarer inserts the ten and, whether it wins or loses, the defenders will score only two trump tricks. As the cards lie, West must go up with an honor. Upon regaining the lead, declarer can then play the ten of spades, and the defenders again get only two tricks.

Should West show out on the first spade, dummy's ten forces an honor from East. Declarer returns to the table and takes the marked finesse against the remaining spade honor. Proper management of the trump suit is sure to deliver the goods.

Tapie threatens to quit

PARIS (AFP) — The president of Olympique Marseille, Bernard Tapie, has threatened to quit if his embattled club is kicked out of the European Champion Cup because of match-rigging allegations.

Tapie also said he would quit if the allegations, that two men from his club tried to bribe three players from Valenciennes before a crucial league match May 20 last season, were proved to be true.

"Taking OM out of Europe would kill the club," the millionaire businessman told Friday's edition of French daily Liberation. "As for me, I'd stop. I don't have a staff and budget that could live without the European Champions Cup."

The menace has been hovering above the above cup holders all week, since the sport's ruling body worldwide, FIFA, warned the French Federation to make a decision over the corruption affair by September 23.

Marseille's appearance in this season's tournament, which starts later this month, will be discussed in Zurich Monday at a meeting of football's governing body in Europe, UEFA.

FIFA and UEFA officials are becoming exasperated at the time taken to resolve the corruption affair.

But as enquiries by the civil authorities are continuing, Tapie says that Marseille risks being punished unfairly.

"It means that OM would be killed without being sure of the facts. And in six months time, if we're not guilty?" he asked.

Argentina face decisive qualifier

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina face a decisive World Cup qualifier at home to Colombia Sunday with trainer Alfio Basile complaining that his team are worn out after nearly three months of non-stop international activity.

Argentina's players have been together from early June, since when they have played the whole of the Copa America plus five World Cup qualifiers.

Only a win in Sunday's South America Group A match will make sure that Argentina qualify automatically for the finals.

A draw would mean they finished second and had to play off against Australia over two legs for the right to go to the finals, while a defeat would leave them depending Paraguay's result in Peru for second spot.

Colombia need only a draw to guarantee first place and automatic World Cup qualification.

Brazil face Venezuela in another World Cup qualifier Sunday intent on giving the no-hopers yet another thrashing.

Brazil's probable victory would leave them level on points with Bolivia at the top of the group. Two teams go through from the group which also includes Ecuador and Uruguay, who meet in Guayaquil Sunday.

U.S. Open

Edberg exit opens way for Sampras

NEW YORK (AFP) — Stefan Edberg's bid for a third consecutive U.S. Open crown ended Thursday when the Swede succumbed to unseeded Czech Karel Novacek in four sets.

Edberg, who had to battle through a marathon five-set first-round encounter Tuesday, looked like pulling off another great escape after dropping the first two sets.

But Novacek kept his nerve to win 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in three hours and six minutes.

It marked only the third time in the Open era that a defending champion had lost as early as the second round here.

In 1989, Pete Sampras ousted defending champion Mats Wilander in the second-round, and in 1973, Andrew Pattison beat Ilie Nastase — also in the second-round.

Edberg's loss continued a startling run of upsets in the men's singles.

Five seeded men lost in the first round — Andre Agassi, Sergi Bruguera, Michael Stich, Petr Korda and Ivan Lendl.

Fourth-seeded German Boris Becker stopped the rot by coming back to score a 3-6, 6-7 (8/10), 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian Andrei Cherkasov in a match that took more than a day to complete.

The two first went on court Wednesday night, but played just two points, to 15-all before rain stopped play.

On Thursday, Becker trailed Cherkasov 6-3, 7-6 (10/8), 7-5 when another spell of drizzle interrupted. They came back after a 90 minute delay and completed the match — four days after the event began.

The poor scheduling left Becker fuming. He faced a second-round match the next day against Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.

Becker said the second-set could have gone either way, but Cherkasov hit a couple of shots of the corners in the tie-break that finished it off.

He said he started to feel the momentum swing his way at 5-4 in the third.

"I thought I played the best probably the fourth set," he said. "I was up a break early. I was feeling pretty relaxed."

Edberg's departure was a boon for 1990 champion Sampras, who was in the same half as the Swede Andre Agassi.

Sampras advanced to the third



Ivan Lendl of the U.S. stands by the net as the umpire announces his withdrawal from the match against Australia's Neil Borwick due to knee injury (AFP photo)

round with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) win over unseeded Czech Daniel Vacek.

In the same half, 12th-seeded Austrian Thomas Muster and number-14 Alexander Volkov of Russia advanced safely.

Muster, who suffered a devastating knee injury when he was hit by a car in 1989, beat American Aaron Krickstein 6-4, 6-0, 6-3, and Volkov beat South African Kevin Ullyett 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-3.

Second-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez followed number-one Steffi Graf into the third-round of the women's singles when she made short work of American Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 6-2.

Third-seeded Martina Navratilova defeated Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 6-1, 6-3.

Seles ranking to drop

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Seles, sidelined since being stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, April 30, will fall to fourth in the world when the next computer rankings are released.

Seles will lose the computer points she received for winning the U.S. Open last year, while Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Martina Navratilova, both in the third round of this year's final Grand Slam tournament, will pass the former world's top player.

Regardless of who wins the U.S. Open, now being played at the National Tennis Centre, Steffi Graf will remain No. 1 in the world on the Virginia Slims computer. Graf also has reached the third round.

The women's tour chose not to freeze Seles' ranking, and Seles is bitter about the decision.

"I lost the ranking without playing a match," she said last week. "It was very hard and the main reason is because the person who did this to me, stabbed me

for that reason and pretty much got his wish in that sense."

Seles' attacker, an avid Graf fan, wanted the German star to return to No. 1. Graf regained the top spot when she won Wimbledon in July.

U.S. Open notebook

Happy birthday, Jimmy: For the first time in a long time, there was no September 2 birthday match for Jimmy Connors at the U.S. Open.

Connors, who turned 41 Thursday, skipped the Open for only the second time in 23 years.

He was spotted at the National Tennis Centre, but as a birthday treat to himself took the day off from answering questions.

Slams the key for Sampras: Winning Wimbledon, three years after his surprise U.S. Open victory in 1990, reminded Pete Sampras just how much winning a Grand Slam means.

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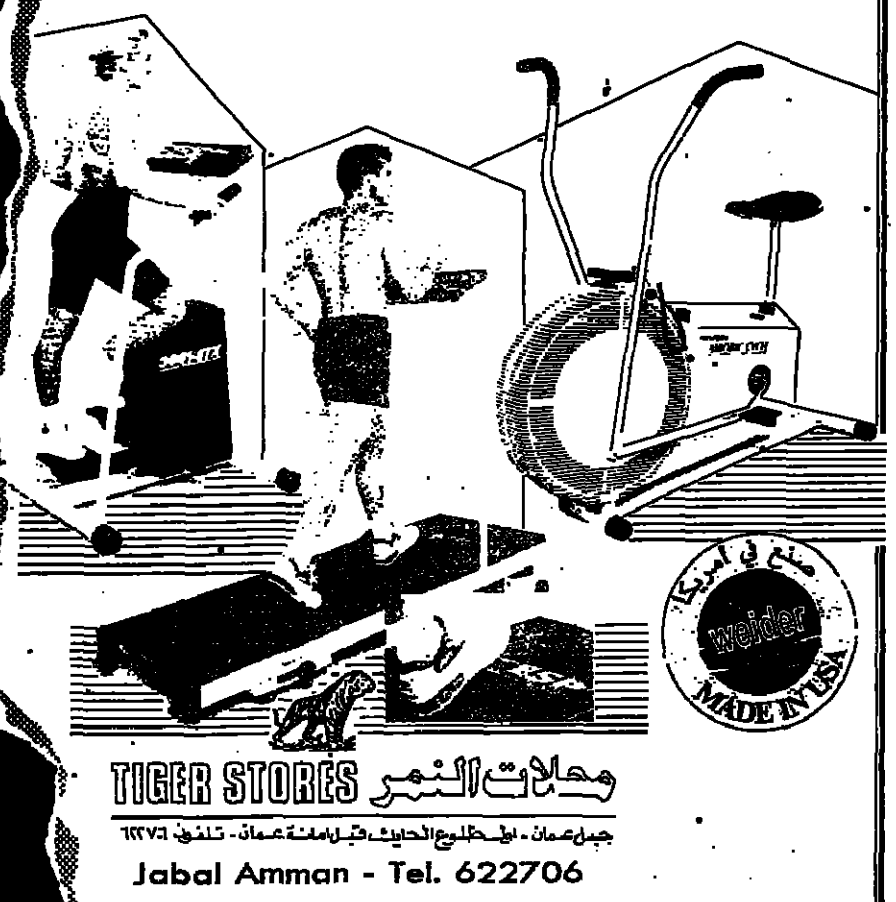
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	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Wed Sayyed Al Shaghal	THE EVIL EMPIRE	Al Iim Nuron	26 in the play:
	America Shikabika	play (Arabic)		A popular political comedy	Arab Summit Conference

Serbs reject U.S. warning, say they have no role in war

Negotiators raise concern over talks collapse

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Friday brushed aside a U.S. warning that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) could intervene against Serbs in the Bosnian conflict if it intensified after the breakdown of peace talks.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, primarily targeting Croats and Serbs fighting "Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic, said the NATO military option is very much alive."

Mr. Karadzic denied any Bosnian Serb involvement in current fighting which is mainly between Muslim and Croat forces trying to gain territory in southern and central Bosnia.

"I think someone is misinforming President Clinton," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters in Belgrade. "The Serbs are not in the war any longer. We haven't fought the Croats for five months. We didn't fight against the Muslims except for some border incidents."

Mr. Clinton issued his warning after talks between Muslim, Serb and Croat leaders with international negotiators in Geneva failed to produce agreement on Muslim demands for more land.

He specifically mentioned any new attacks on the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, which has been under a 17-month siege throughout the civil war, or interference with U.N. and convoys.

The likeliest form of intervention would be air strikes.

A U.S. air base at Aviano in

northern Italy, where U.S. aircraft enforcing "no fly" zone over Bosnia, was attacked during the night by gunmen who fired on a dormitory.

There were no casualties and the unidentified attackers escaped but Italian authorities tightened security around the base.

A peace plan on which the warring communities are now being coaxed to reopen negotiations allocated 30 per cent of Bosnia to Muslims, 52 per cent to Serbs and the rest to Croats.

U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia voiced public concern that the collapse of the Geneva negotiations could give fresh impetus to the fighting as all three sides grab for more territory.

Claims by the Muslims for more living space and guaranteed access to the Adriatic Sea have been given strong U.S. support in statements by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other senior officials as well as by Mr. Clinton.

At the same time, Washington has been taking a tougher line with Croatia whose army has been monitored by the U.N. reinforcing Bosnian Croat forces despite repeated denials from Zagreb.

Mr. Christopher said in a message to Serbia and Croatia: "We think that if the settlement breaks down because of the stubbornness, the intransigence of the Serbs or Croats, the world community will certainly hold them responsible."

All three sides reported clashes

on Thursday and Friday but there was no evidence of fighting on the scale the U.N. feared.

Fighting in central Bosnia blocked fuel from reaching the capital Friday, but most of the republic was quiet as the warring sides weighed their response to the breakdown of Geneva peace talks.

U.N. officials in the Bosnian capital said high-priority facilities such as the city bakery were running short of diesel fuel because of clashes to the west, in the region of Gornji Vakuf, where Muslims and Croats are vying for territory.

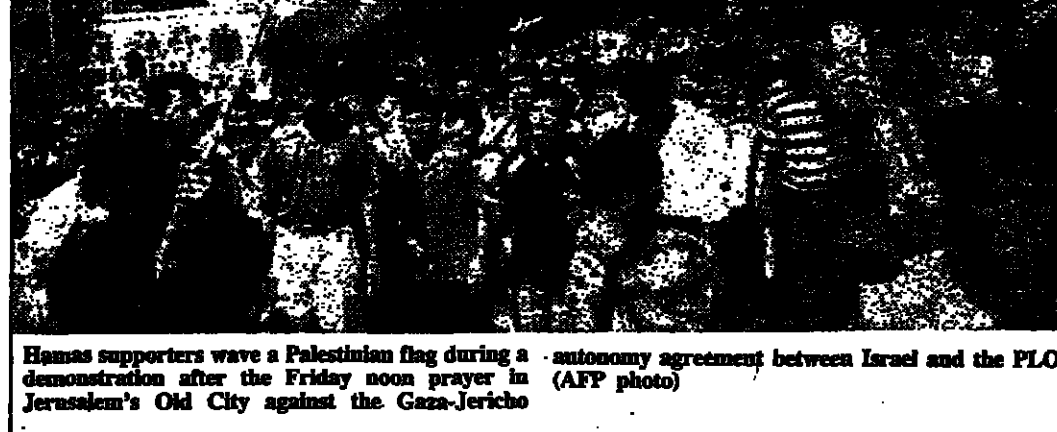
A convoy carrying diesel was stalled because of the fighting, said Ray Wilkinson, a Sarajevo-based spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The trucks would provide Sarajevo with its first diesel fuel shipment in a month.

U.N. peacekeeper's spokesman Idoel van Biesebroeck said most of the republic remained peaceful overnight.

U.N. representative Cedric Thornberry expressed concern Wednesday that there was a "real possibility" of renewed fighting that could last through the winter.

Mr. Thornberry has spent most



Austrian president arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian President Thomas Klestil is due here Saturday to discuss with His Majesty King Hussein several issues of common concern to Austria and Jordan, including developments in the Middle East, Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Stieglbauer said Friday.

The talks cover the Middle East, the situation in Bosnia Herzegovina, the role of the United Nations in peace keeping, ways to make this role more effective and means of promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields, said the ambassador in a statement to the Jordan Times.

President Klestil will arrive in Amman Saturday afternoon for a 24-hour official visit at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Stieglbauer said.

It is the first trip to any Arab country and the first outside

Europe by the Austrian president, who was elected last year, said the ambassador.

He noted that Austria had granted Jordan nearly \$10 million to help it buy machinery for a potash project, equipment for vocational training and civil defence facilities and medicines.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Austria had offered Jordan \$9 million in the wake of the Gulf crisis to help the country overcome difficulties resulting from the Gulf war, and that Austria has continually granted Jordan soft loans for development projects.

Asked whether Austria would offer Jordan additional loans, the ambassador said the Austrian government has not been approached in this respect.

In indirect help to Jordan Austria made donations to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to build schools in the Kingdom, noting that Austria is a party to the Paris

Club which is helping Jordan reschedule its debts to the western countries.

According to Petra, Jordan last year imported \$22.7 million worth of Austrian goods and exported relatively insignificant amounts in return.

Petra said that Jordan was expected to ask Austria for more soft loans to help finance several development projects.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said that the Austrian leader's visit reflected the excellent relations between the two countries.

King Hussein has always displayed a keenness to bolstering Jordan's ties with Austria and promoting bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields, said the minister in a statement to Petra. He said that Austrian-Jordanian relations have always been based on mutual understanding, friendship and respect.

Hamilton predicts U.S. recognition of PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will probably recognize the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if Israel does so, the chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee said Thursday.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, a Democrat, said Israel's conditions for recognising the PLO are the same as those of the U.S. administration and Congress.

The Congress, in particular, has in the past imposed stiff terms on U.S. contacts with the PLO and sought to tie the administration's hands on talking to the group because of its acts of "terrorism."

"Israel has for the past few days been negotiating secretly the terms for mutual recognition with its former arch-enemy, with whom it has reached an agreement on self-government for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

"Among the conditions Israel has publicly spelled out are for the PLO to issue an authoritative statement renouncing 'terrorism' and recognising Israel's right to exist. Some snags have developed over the language, but officials on both sides were still hopeful Thursday that these could be overcome."

"What Israel decides, we will find satisfactory and support," said Mr. Hamilton in an interview. "The question of our recognition will become a moot question by then."

The United States launched a dialogue with the PLO at the end of 1988 — after Chairman Yasser Arafat pledged publicly to recognise Israel and stop "terrorism" — but cut it off in June 1990 to protest an attack on a Tel Aviv beach by a PLO faction.

"Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier in the day that the administration's position on dialogue with the PLO had not changed. But, he added, 'we'll be watching very carefully what the relationship is between Israel and the PLO.'"

"In a Sept. 1, 1975 memorandum, the United States promised Israel it would not recognise the PLO unless the organisation recognised Israel's right to exist."

The State Department's legal experts have been going through the language of various bills adopted by Congress over the years with regard to the PLO, to see if there is any legal impediment to U.S. recognition of the organisation, said a congressional source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An initial reading of those bills does not show any such impediment, he said.

"The PLO has privately made clear to Israel that it expects recognition in Washington, too."

"U.S. recognition should logically come once mutual recognition is worked out" with Israel, said PLO representative Nabil Shaath.

Netanyahu vows to press case against Gaza-Jericho

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu, head of Israel's right-wing opposition, grabbed a piece of paper and sketched a large, swastika-shaped swatch of territory inside Israel.

"It's like a fist aimed at the heart of Israel," said Mr. Netanyahu, explaining his opposition to handing the West Bank over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which he predicts will happen as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy plan.

The plan, worked out in secret negotiations between Palestinians and Israeli diplomats in Norway, would start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Netanyahu, leaning back in his chair in an office at the Knesset (parliament), argued that Israel is so divided there is only one solution: New elections.

"If (Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin had said he would negotiate with the PLO and install Yasser Arafat and his men in enclaves 15 minutes from Jerusalem and the suburbs of Tel Aviv he would not have been elected," Mr. Netanyahu said Thursday.

The man who would like to be Israel's next leader outlined Likud's vision: Annexing the 140 Israeli settlements in the West Bank, along with their 120,000 inhabitants, to Israel.

Even though Mr. Rabin's government has been shaken by corruption scandals and secular-religious tensions, forcing new elections could be difficult, and Mr. Netanyahu would make no predictions.

Instead, his strategy seemed to be slowing the implementation of "the Rabin-Arafat plan" with demonstrations, petitions, parliamentary action and other democratic forms of protest.

Arafat battles for support

(Continued from page 1)

Beyond Fateh lies a series of committees and councils growing progressively larger and more diverse. Mr. Arafat can expect new tiers of opposition at each level.

And beyond them are rival Palestinian groups like the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, resolute against a deal and not represented in the PLO structure.

The 1968 charter specifies that it can only be altered by a two-thirds majority of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The PNC would be a key forum for Palestinians scattered around the Middle East.

Those in Lebanon and Syria — the families which fled when Israel was created in 1948 — have less to hope for from Mr. Arafat's deal than residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip or refugees who fled when Israel seized those territories in 1967.

Mr. Arafat-Rabbat said the 100-strong Palestine Central Council would discuss the agreement, probably next week in Tunis. But he indicated that Mr. Arafat hoped to bypass the PNC and

"There is a risk of all kinds of dissent and a chasm in Israeli society that would be very, very hard to control," Mr. Netanyahu said.

He called the plan the "height of folly," preposterous, "absurd," and compared it to the failed peacemaking of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who tried to forge a peace agreement with Hitler.

The 1991 Gulf war, when missiles easily reached Tel Aviv, changed the thinking of some Israelis, who now contend that territory is no longer an effective buffer.

But Mr. Netanyahu argued that the mountain range running through the West Bank was a "stone wall thousands of feet high" protecting Israel from the "great Arab armies" to the east.

He said the PLO long had a plan to destroy Israel in stages, and they could combine forces with neighbouring Arab states, using the strategic heights as a launching pad.

"There is no other nation in the world, not even an Arab Nation, that would put its cities and population under strategic heights controlled by the PLO," said Mr. Netanyahu.

He said the proposed plan grants the Palestinians far more control over land and security than the 1978 Camp David accords, which were approved by a Likud government.

The 1978 proposal would have left Israel in control of security inside the West Bank and Gaza, whereas the new agreement gives the task in Gaza and Jericho to Mr. Arafat.

All the territory is given to the PLO, and there will be few isolated pockets, pinheads really, of Israelis who would not survive for very long," he said. "Effectively the government has given the PLO control of the land."

satisfy Israeli demands for changes in the charter with leadership statements based on old decisions of the PNC.

A PLO official following developments closely from Jordan conceded that "convening the PNC is difficult now."

Hamas vowed on Friday to continue the fight against Israel and declared that it had killed an Israeli soldier on Thursday.

Lebanese fundamentalist guerrillas, also against any deal, fired a dozen rockets into Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" and attacked an outpost of the Jewish state's militia allies.

In South Lebanon's 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp, blasted only weeks ago by Israeli shell-fire, hundreds of Palestinians marched with black flags, spurred by fiery sermons at Friday Muslim prayers.

"Arafat you pimp, we will stamp on your head," chanted men, women and children.

"This is a plan of treason, humiliation and shame," said Hussein Abdullah, 45, who has lived all his life in the camp.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

accepted, Palestinian refugees in the past because the West Bank was part of the Kingdom. Under the new agreement, however, Palestinians would be the responsibility of the Palestinian authority that will be established in Gaza and Jericho, he said.

"By preventing a mass influx of people into its territory, Jordan will be legitimately protecting its interests as a sovereign state," said an official, who asked not to be named.

A high-ranking Israeli official was quoted as saying on Wednesday that the repatriation of Palestinians who fled the occupied territories since 1967 would be "at the heart of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that would follow the signing of a joint declaration of principles."

AFP quoted Jordanian sources as saying 246,000 Palestinian refugees settled in Jordan in 1967, and 57,000 others came to Jordan in 1968 and remained here after Israel refused to allow them back into the occupied territories.

Dr. Majali told the French agency that the United States had recently informed Jordan that Israel will allow the repatriation of 3,000 Palestinian refugees who came to Jordan in 1968 but that Israel has not yet communicated that decision to Jordan.

Despite reports that the Gaza-Jericho accord brings to the surface the "Jordanian option" — the establishment of a Palestinian state in Jordan — officials and observers say the accord does exactly the opposite: It buries this option forever.

In his interview with AFP, Dr. Majali said he "does not agree that the accord would lead to the creation of a Palestinian homeland in Jordan."

Jordanian analysts and observers maintain that Jordan aborted the 'Jordanian option' idea in 1988 when it severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. "The creation of a Palestinian authority" on parts of Palestine would "bury it forever," one of them said.

They say Jordan's reaction to the Oslo agreement is influenced by two considerations: The Palestinian issue as a national Arab cause and Jordan's own interests.

In the pan-Arab national dimension, Jordan is concerned about the implications and consequences of the agreement on the Palestinian people and the occupied territories as part of the Arab Nation and the Arab World, a former senior official said.

Jordan sees many shortcomings with this agreement and is therefore not satisfied with

what it offers the Palestinians, he said.

The accord, which is expected to be signed this week, will have direct impact on Jordan, which has been closely affected by the Palestinian problem. The agreement deals with refugees, security, economic development and water, among other issues which directly relate to Jordan's interests.

Accordingly, Jordan is irritated with the Palestinians for their failure to consult with the Kingdom over these issues, according to officials and observers interviewed.

A former minister proposed that Jordan reconsider the draft agenda for its talks with Israel in light of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. "The agenda should be viewed from a new perspective. Jordan should make sure the agenda deals with the fears that the PLO-Israeli accord raises."

Dr. Majali told AFP Jordan will ratify the joint agenda after the Palestinians announce the joint declaration of principles with Israel.

He added that serious negotiations between Jordan and Israel will commence after announcing the agenda, "some of whose phrases need complete explanation."

The major issues of discussion between Jordan and Israel are an Israeli withdrawal from 350 square kilometres of occupied Jordanian land, the repatriation of Palestinian refugees in Jordan and water rights. Dr. Majali recently said Israel had conceded to Jordan's demand for the return of its land and water rights.

Dr. Majali told his interviewer Thursday that he "regretted (the lack of proper) coordination between Jordan and the PLO," reaffirming that Jordan was not aware of the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

But while the Palestinians are "free in their negotiations," Dr. Majali said, Jordan reserves the right to reject "anything (relating to it) on which others agree."

"No role should be imposed on us because this is something that we will not allow," Dr. Majali said.

"Jordan is a free country with its independent will... we will not accept that our will be tied to that of any other party and we do not accept to be tied to any agreement to which Jordan is not a signatory," Minister of Information Ma'n Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times Friday.

Article XII of the Palestinian-Israeli accord says: "The two parties (Israel and the Palestinians) will invite the governments of Jordan and Egypt to participate in establishing further liaison and cooperation arrangements between the government of Israel and the Palestinian representatives, on one hand, and the

governments of Jordan and Egypt, on the other hand, to promote cooperation between them."

"These arrangements will include the constitution of a continuing committee that will decide by agreement on the modalities of the admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder. Other matters of common concern will be dealt with by this committee."

A senior official told the Jordan Times Friday that as far as Jordan is concerned, "this article is null and void."

Dr. Majali said there are complicated issues which need to be discussed with the Palestinians in order to "avoid mistakes that can harm the two sides."

But in addition to these concerns Jordan is unhappy with the agreement because it "contradicts the basic thinking of King Hussein who wanted a comprehensive solution (to the Arab-Israeli conflict)," said a former official who is familiar with Jordan's policy towards the Palestinian conflict.

He said the King has always believed that the Arabs should not enter any agreements with Israel without establishing what the final solution would be. The Gaza-Jericho accord does not do that, he said. "The King wanted to see the end of the tunnel. He was never at ease with the idea of a transitional period."

The idea of a transitional period first surfaced with the signing of the Camp David agreement in 1979, replacing the demand for a clear implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242.

"Autonomy for the Palestinians in an Israeli idea which was first proposed by (former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin," the former official maintained, adding that Jordan could not stop this option from taking root since the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, accepted it.

Furthermore, Jordan is not opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord, which one analyst termed "a municipal agreement that cannot lead to the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights, because it supports the decision of the PLO," a well-placed observer said.

Jordan, however, hopes the PLO will be able to contain the divisions among the Palestinians on the accord because any instability in Gaza or Jericho can spill over to Jordan.

"Any (inter-) Palestinian differences would have negative impact on Jordan. But (I hope) that these differences would disappear, especially after the establishment of a Palestinian entity," Dr. Majali told AFP.

Supporters, opponents of autonomy plan lobby Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Supporters and opponents of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on limited Palestinian self-rule have one thing in common: They are both campaigning urgently to win over the deeply divided Palestinian population.

Faisal Husseini, the top PLO leader in the occupied territories, has chosen to remain in Jerusalem rather than attend the 11th round of Middle East peace in order to canvass for support for the accord.

On Thursday Mr. Husseini met diplomats and representatives of international organisations in the Holy City to brief them on the accord for autonomy starting in Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Husseini gathered his aides at his Jerusalem headquarters in Orient House on Tuesday, on his return from PLO headquarters in Tunis, to spell out the main points of the secret deal which was hammered out in Oslo, Norway.

The following day he met representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), two factions which are strongly opposed to the autonomy accord.

"I informed the opposition of the details of the agreement," Mr. Husseini later said, adding that he would also meet leaders of the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Riyad Malki, a Palestinian with close links to the PFLP, said that what Mr. Husseini told him "did not make me change my mind."

The DFLP and the PFLP were among 10 Palestinian factions which have said that the accord "does not reflect the will of the Palestinian people." They urged Arab states to back their fight against Israel.

Yasser Arafat's Fateh, the PLO's mainstream group, and other factions close to the Palestinian leader have meanwhile organised rallies across the West Bank and Gaza Strip in support of the accord.

Police face huge task

The new Palestinian police force had an early insight into the mighty task it faces when Islamic fundamentalists attacked a rally in support of the autonomy accord and left 15 PLO supporters wounded.

Intermittent clashes like those in a Gaza refugee camp on Wednesday night are routine, particularly on the Strip where Palestinians summarily execute Palestinians almost daily in a climate of lawlessness.

The Israeli army, reluctant to intervene in such battles, has counted nearly 900 extra-judicial killings of Arabs by Arabs since the intifada erupted in December 1987. Most were suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

According to an AFP toll, Israeli bullets have killed 1,113 Palestinians over the same period, which saw the resignation of all policemen who were Palestinians.

With Israel expecting the autonomy agreement to be signed in the next two weeks, Police Minister Moshe Shahal has sounded a warning.

"If you turn over control to them, then that's it. There is not much you can do," Mr. Shahal told reporters Wednesday.

"I will recommend that we have the maximum cooperation," between Israeli and Palestinian forces, he said, calling for joint patrols and liaison officers in police stations.

But he added: "We are talking about two different forces, with different uniforms and different commanders. The Palestinian police officers will not have the authority to halt Israelis," he added.

Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shuhak has predicted "serious difficulties" ahead in the fight against "terrorism" once the accord comes into effect.

The autonomy accord makes only passing reference to the new force noting that the details still have to be settled by Israel and the PLO.

"The Palestinian side will commence in building the Palestinian police force; as agreed upon," the accord says.

"In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians... the (autonomy) council will establish a strong police force while Israel will continue to carry responsibility for defending against external threats as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israel."

Palestinians from abroad (Egypt and Jordan), who want to join the force should already be trained police officers.

Researchers find brain swells after heart bypass

LONDON (R) — Using a special scanning technique, British researchers have shown for the first time that the brain swells shortly after coronary bypass surgery, a medical journal reported Friday.

The Lancet said the discovery may explain why two per cent of bypass patients have a stroke and up to 57 per cent suffer from some form of neurological complication. "These are the first reported scans done within an hour of surgery," Dr. David Harris of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London reported in the journal.

Previous scans which were less sensitive and done one to four weeks after the operation did not show any swelling. But Harris and his colleagues used MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) which found that the brains of six men aged 57 to 72 swelled soon after their bypass surgery but not before the operation or six to 18 days after.

The researchers said the reason for the swelling was unknown. But tiny blood clots, common during heart surgery, could partly explain the results because the clots would impede the blood flow to the brain, which would respond by swelling. "We have yet to study the relation of the cerebral swelling to postoperative morbidity and to establish whether it can be prevented, but this study may provide a new focus for research on the topic," Harris said.

Kaiser Wilhelm I statue returns to place of honour

KOBLENZ, Germany (AP) — A 128-foot-high (39-metre-high) statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I was placed on its prewar pedestal at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel Rivers, over the objections of some who call the German ruler a warmonger. Much of the city turned out along the banks Thursday to welcome the installation of the statue of Wilhelm and his horse, a replica of one that was destroyed by American soldiers at the end of World War II.

But some Koblenz youths protested, by unfurling a banner with Adolf Hitler's face superimposed over a picture of the Wilhelm statue. "Wilhelm waged war across Europe. With all the neo-Nazi violence we're having now, this statue is the last thing we need," said one protester, high school student, David Schaefer, as he cowered up at the big bronze despot.

Siamese twins separated

BALTIMORE, Maryland (R) — Surgeons successfully separated four-day-old female Siamese twins, hospital officials said. The twins, delivered by Caesarian section at the Johns Hopkins Children's Centre, were joined at the chest and abdomen but did not share any organs, hospital spokeswoman Jo Martin said.

"They and their mother are doing fine," Ms. Martin said. The operation was the second in a day to separate conjoined twins. Earlier in London, surgeons at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital separated 10-month-old Italian boys and said they had an equal chance of survival. The boys were born joined from the upper chest to the pelvis and had two arms and one leg each, and shared a fused liver and lower bowel.

At Johns Hopkins, Ms. Martin said the girls' mother had been in a high-risk pregnancy programme since learning she was carrying conjoined twins, which occur once in about every 100,000 births.

Court slaps 2nd three-cent fine on Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — A court ordered former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to pay a second successive fine of 30 roubles (three U.S. cents) Friday for failing to turn up to answer libel charges. ITAR-TASS News Agency said, TASS said it was the fourth time Mr. Gorbachev had failed to show up in court to answer the defamation charges levelled against him by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. Mr. Gorbachev received an initial 30 rouble fine on Aug. 12, but this remains unpaid. TASS said Mr. Luzhkov filed the suit after Mr. Gorbachev, in a television interview in May, accused the Moscow city administration of using public funds to build personal villas on the outskirts of the capital. Mr. Luzhkov, a strong supporter of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, is seeking a public apology. Mr. Gorbachev, forced from office after the collapse of the Soviet Union, now runs a Moscow-based think-tank.